

**BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK**

**ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY PANEL**

**Minutes from the Meeting of the Environment and Community Panel held on  
Tuesday, 16th July, 2019 at 6.00 pm in the Council Chamber - Town Hall,  
Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn PE30 5DQ**

**PRESENT:** Councillors C Sampson (Chairman), L Bambridge, C Bower (Vice Chairman), A Bubb, S Collop, M de Whalley, A Kemp, J Kirk, J Lowe, A Ryves (substitute for A Bullen), S Squire and A Tyler (substitute for Mrs M Wilkinson)

**PORTFOLIO HOLDERS:**

Councillor I Devereux – Portfolio Holder for Development  
Councillor P Kunes – Portfolio Holder for Commercial Services  
Councillor B Long – Leader of the Council  
Councillor Mrs E Nockolds – Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and Health

**OFFICERS:**

Barry Brandford – Waste and Recycling Manager  
Sarah Dennis – Partnerships and Funding Officer  
Ged Greaves – Senior Policy and Performance Officer  
Honor Howell – Assistant Director  
Dave Robson – Environmental Health Manager

EC14: **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bullen and Mrs Wilkinson.

EC15: **MINUTES**

Councillor Mrs Collop referred to the appointment of Members to Task Groups and Informal Working Groups which was presented to the previous meeting and asked if the positions had been filled. The Democratic Services Officer confirmed that Group Leaders had confirmed the appointment of the Members to the Task groups.

Councillor Kemp asked if Members would have the opportunity to be involved in the Homelessness Task Group. The Democratic Services Officer advised that any Member could attend any meeting to speak on an item under Standing Order 34 and would ensure that the Panel Members were notified when agendas for Task Groups were published.

**RESOLVED:** The Minutes from the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

EC16: **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

EC17: **URGENT BUSINESS**

The Chairman advised the Panel that at the Full Council meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> July, Council referred the appointment of a representative to the King's Lynn Football Board back to the Environment and Community Panel.

The Panel were therefore invited to nominate a representative to serve on this Board.

**RESOLVED:** There were no nominations put forward, so the appointment would be referred back to Full Council.

EC18: **MEMBERS PRESENT PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 34**

There was none.

EC19: **CHAIRMAN'S CORRESPONDENCE**

There was none.

EC20: **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME - THEMED FUND**

The Partnership and Funding Officer presented the report and explained that the Borough Council operated a Financial Assistance Scheme to support local community groups. This included a special 'themed' annual fund of £4,000. Members of the Panel were asked to consider the use of this themed fund for 2019/2020.

The Chairman thanked the Partnership and Funding Officer for her report and invited questions and comments from the Panel, as summarised below.

Councillor Squire suggested that the themed fund should be used to encourage the planting of native trees and wildflowers, including in schools. The Chairman and Vice Chairman commented that this would be a good idea and the Vice Chairman referred to successful planting schemes which had been carried out in Hunstanton.

Councillor Bubb referred to the suggestion that the fund be used to provide defibrillators. He commented that these had hidden costs in that the batteries needed to be replaced.

Councillor Mrs Collop suggested that a small amount of the fund available be used to install a memorial bench for the late Councillor Gourlay.

The Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and Health, Councillor Mrs Nockolds explained that there was a budget available for tree planting and there was a 'Street Trees' project ongoing which encouraged businesses to offer funding for planting, with so far over twenty trees being planted. She explained that this was a Borough wide scheme.

The Panel was also informed that some of the Government's Parks and Gardens funding had gone into the Norfolk Community Foundation pot so that organisations and local community groups could bid for funding for projects to enhance parks and gardens. The Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and Health suggested that this route could be used to apply for funding for a memorial bench.

Councillor Ryves suggested that the themed fund be used for providing meadows on common land. He also highlighted that 2020 was the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World War II and funds could be used for memorials.

Councillor Mrs Kemp suggested that the fund could be used for growing flowers in certain gardens to help smarten up areas. She suggested that seed packets could be provided and used in communal gardens and sheltered housing.

Councillor Tyler suggested that the fund be used to bring music into schools. This could include donations for young children learning music and providing instruments. He explained that there was a West Norfolk organisation which provided this and brought in professional musicians to schools. The Vice Chairman commented that she was aware of this organisation and that they did great work in schools.

The Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and Health commented that there was already a music hub in Norfolk and encouraged schools that were looking to bring more music in to look at what they could offer. She also commented that there was a Local Cultural Education Board which was hosted by Creative Arts East and local drama and music groups could apply for funding. The Portfolio Holder also informed the Panel of King's Lynn and West Norfolk Girls School Trust to which school girls could apply for grants, which included for music lessons and instruments.

Councillor de Whalley commented that he supported the suggestion for using the fund for wildflower planting and trees. He explained that any project would also need managing and interpretation boards would be required so that the public were aware of spaces that were being used for wildflowers.

The Partnership and Funding Officer reminded the Panel that the West Norfolk Wins Lottery was a good way for local community groups to raise money with minimal effort.

The Chairman thanked the Panel for their suggestions for the themed fund. He suggested that the Partnership and Funding Officer consider

the suggestions put forward and bring back to the Panel more detail on how the funds could be utilised.

**RESOLVED:** The Partnership and Funding Officer to consider the suggestions of the Panel and bring a report back to the Panel on how the themed fund could be utilised.

EC21: **FULL YEAR - 2018-2019 PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT**

The Senior Policy and Performance Officer presented the report. He explained that each year the Cabinet agreed the Performance Indicators and each Panel monitored the Performance Indicators that were relevant to the Panel, on a quarterly basis.

The Panel's attention was drawn to the three indicators which had not met target:

- CE1 – Number of suspected licensable HMO's that are inspected and/or licensed.
- CE4 – Number of new affordable housing completions.
- CO7 – Number of brown bins in use for composting.

The Senior Policy and Performance Officer referred to the notes against the indicators, which explained that the indicators relating to HMO's and affordable housing reflected national issues and were impacted by matters outside of the council's direct control. He also highlighted that the brown bin indicator had only missed its target by just over 1%.

The Chairman thanked the Senior Policy and Performance Officer for his report and invited questions and comments from the Panel, as summarised below.

Councillor Bubb suggested that it would be useful to have figures as well as percentages to give a more accurate reflection of performance. The Senior Policy and Performance Officer agreed to add figures to the appropriate indicators in future monitoring reports.

**RESOLVED:** 1. The Panel reviewed the monitoring report and agreed the actions in the action report.  
2. The Senior Policy and Performance Officer to add figures as appropriate, as well as percentages, in the next monitoring report.

EC22: **DRY RECYCLABLES PROCESSING**

The Waste and Recycling Manager presented information to the Panel, including showing the two videos (links below) and providing a presentation (attached).

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/science-environment-48716549/how-recyclable-is-your-food-shop>

<https://vimeo.com/346105155>

The Waste and Recycling Manager outlined the processes involved in dry recycling and highlighted that all the Borough's recycling was carried out in the UK and nothing was exported until it had been prepared for remoulding.

He reminded the Panel that they had been invited to attend a tour of the Materials Recycling Facility.

The Chairman thanked the Waste and Recycling Manager for his presentation and invited questions and comments from the Panel, as summarised below.

Councillor Kemp asked if there were plans to extend what could be recycled, including larger plastics. She also referred to the review of Norfolk County Council's Waste Policy which made reference to incineration. The Waste and Recycling Manager explained that he was unaware of the Norfolk County Council review. He explained that with regards to larger plastics, this had been reviewed recently but no changes had been made. The Waste and Recycling Manager also explained that WRAP funding had been previously used to identify plastic sorting opportunities, but it would not allow the mixing of materials.

The Waste and Recycling Manager explained that harder and larger plastics were often made up of different components and this made the processes more complex. He also referred to items such as tins of paint, which could contaminate a lot of other recycling should there be any remnants of paint which make it into the truck, or the recycling belts at the MRF.

Councillor Bubb asked if there were alternatives that could be used to black plastic sacks. The Waste and Recycling Manager explained that waste could be put into the bin loose, or other bags could be used. He explained that black sacks could be made easily from fairly low grade recyclable material and that in the past other colours had been used to differentiate between trade waste etc. The other benefit of using black bags was that anything confidential could not be seen from the outside.

Councillor Bubb commented that black bags could take a long time to break down in landfill and the Waste and Recycling Manager confirmed that none of West Norfolk's waste was sent to landfill, it was shredded, bailed and then sent to Holland to be used as fuel.

Councillor de Whalley explained that it was important to raise public awareness about how and why we recycled. The Waste and Recycling Manager explained that social media was used and there were some

videos available on the Norfolk Recycles website. Other options were being looked at in conjunction with the Communications Team. Households also received two leaflets a year to encourage correct recycling.

The Panel was informed that currently 20% of materials collected for recycling could not be recycled. The Waste and Recycling Manager explained that there was still an element of human sorting required at the MRF.

Councillor Ryves informed the Panel that he had visited the MRF and had been informed that there was a lot of contamination. He felt that public awareness of what could and could not be recycled was important to reduce contamination and that the public should be penalised if they were not recycling properly. He also explained that items should be loose, clean and excess packaging should be removed. The Waste and Recycling Manager explained that clear sacks could be used for recycling, but there was still a large amount of contamination. The Panel was also informed that action had been taken against households that continuously did not recycle correctly.

**RESOLVED:** The Panel noted the information.

EC23: **AIR QUALITY MONITORING REPORT**

The Environmental Health Manager presented information on Air Quality Monitoring, as attached. He explained that the Annual Report was still in the process of being finalised and then would be sent to DEFRA for auditing before being published on the Borough Council's Website.

The Chairman thanked the Environmental Health Manager for his presentation and invited questions and comments from the Panel, as summarised below.

Councillor Kemp asked about sulphur monitoring, benzene monitoring and pollution in industrial areas. She also referred to a metal smell at Coopers. The Environmental Health Manager explained that Industrial Pollution control was monitored separately. He explained that benzene and sulphur dioxide levels had been monitored at certain sites in the past, but the assessment of the levels had resulted in them no longer being monitored as levels were well below the annual mean.

Councillor Kemp commented that going forward the Council needed to look at other elements to reduce the impact on air quality, for example at Wisbech Road where there was pollutants from cars. The Environmental Health Manager explained monitoring had been carried out at Wisbech Road, but it was below the annual mean. Nar Ouse

Way had also had a positive effect on the air quality along Wisbech Road.

The Chairman thanked the officers for the monitoring that was carried out. He acknowledged that resources did not allow for all areas to be monitored, but felt assured that should issues arise they would be investigated.

The Environmental Health Manager invited Councillor Kemp to discuss issues regarding specific sites within her Ward with him outside of the meeting.

Councillor Squire referred to the mean figures which had been provided to the Panel. She asked if the Panel could be provided with the maximum figures and the range for the past year. The Environmental Health Manager agreed to provide this information to the Panel.

Councillor Bambridge asked if monitoring was carried out outside of schools as she was aware of a lot of cars outside of schools at leaving time which were left with their engines running. The Environmental Health Manager explained that some monitoring was carried out, but schools were generally set back from the road and the levels declined quite quickly from the roadside.

Councillor Ryves referred to smells in the Stoke Ferry area resulting from medical cannabis being grown in Wissington Sugar Factory. It was explained that this site was regulated by the Environment Agency and had the relevant permits in place. Any issues with smell should be reported to the Council's Community Safety and Neighbourhood Nuisance Team.

**RESOLVED:** 1. The update was noted.  
2. The Environmental Health Manager to provide annual maximum and range figures to the Panel if possible.

EC24: **WORK PROGRAMME AND FORWARD DECISION LIST**

The following items were identified for consideration for addition to the Work Programme:

- Review of the Policy on the release of Chinese Lanterns.
- Blue Flag Beaches

**RESOLVED:** The Panel's Work Programme was noted.

EC25: **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Environment and Community Panel would be held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 at 6.00pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn.

**The meeting closed at 8.31 pm**