

**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, 14th July, 2020 at 3.00 pm in the Remote Meeting on Zoom and available for the public to view on WestNorfolkBC on You Tube - Zoom and You Tube**

**PRESENT:** Councillors C Sampson (Chair), C Bower (Vice Chair), L Bambridge, A Bubb, A Bullen, S Collop, M de Whalley, A Kemp, J Kirk, S Squire and M Wilkinson

**PORTFOLIO HOLDERS:**

Councillor P Kunes – Portfolio Holder for Commercial Services

Councillor B Long – Leader of the Council

Councillor E Nockolds – Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and Health

**OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillor I Devereux

**OFFICERS:**

Martin Chisholm – Assistant Director

Lorraine Gore – Chief Executive

Ged Greaves – Senior Policy and Performance Officer

Neil Gromett – Managing Director – Alive West Norfolk

**EC99: WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chair informed the Panel that the meeting was being broadcast live on You Tube. The recording of the meeting is available at [WestNorfolkBC on You Tube](#).

**EC100: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There was none.

**EC101: MINUTES**

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

**EC102: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**EC103: URGENT BUSINESS**

There was none.

**EC104: MEMBERS PRESENT PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 34**

There was none.

**EC105: CHAIR'S CORRESPONDENCE**

There was none.

**EC106: ALIVE WEST NORFOLK UPDATE**

[Click here to view the You Tube Recording of this item.](#)

The Managing Director, Alive West Norfolk, provided the Panel with an update on Alive West Norfolk. A copy of the presentation is attached.

The Chair thanked the Managing Director for the update and invited questions and comments from the Panel, as summarised below.

The Managing Director explained that social distancing arrangements would be put in place as required. The Corn Exchange Cinema was scheduled to open mid-September and would adhere to the guidance relevant at the time. Leisure Centres would operate at a reduced capacity, there would be hand sanitising stations throughout the facilities and additional cleaning would take place. The Managing Director explained that the facilities would adhere to guidance from governing bodies and all plans would be signed off by the Council's Health and Safety Team.

In response to a question regarding the Tourist Information Centre, the Managing Director explained that this was operated by Alive West Norfolk, but the location of the Tourist Information Centre would be a matter for the Council.

It was also explained that acts booked for the Corn Exchange had been rescheduled to next year.

It was noted that swimming attendance was down, and it was explained that this was a trend across the Country, prior to the Covid crisis. Once facilities could be reopened, ways to encourage people back into swimming would be looked at.

The Managing Director explained that he would promote the refit project and its benefits as appropriate.

In response to questions about Downham Market Leisure Centre, the Managing Director explained that it was a very popular facility but was rarely at capacity. Ways to improve the offer could be looked at in the future.

With regard to Members who had cancelled their Memberships recently, it was felt that this was because Members may have been unsure if their Memberships would be frozen and it was hoped that they may re-join once the facilities were open again.

It was also explained that fitness classes would need to be booked online due to reduced capacity and a timetable would be drawn up. Members were reminded that the authority to reopen had only just been announced, so lots of planning was ongoing on how to do so safely.

A decision had not yet been taken about the Panto at the Corn Exchange and options and potential alternatives would be looked at when necessary. Information would be communicated to the public via social media and press releases as and when decisions were made.

**RESOLVED:** The update was noted.

EC107: **FULL YEAR CORPORATE PERFORMANCE MONITORING**

[Click here to view the You Tube Recording of this item.](#)

The Senior Policy and Performance Officer presented the report which contained information on the corporate performance monitoring undertaken during 2019-2020.

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

The Senior Policy and Performance Officer was asked if the long waiting list for Disabled Facilities Grants was because of a lack of resources and if additional resources were required and if there were additional figures available on Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO's). The Senior Policy and Performance Officer agreed to provide the Panel with more information on the amount of HMO's in the Borough and how many were licensed.

It was also suggested that an update on HMO's be added to the Panels Work Programme.

Questions were asked about the amount of brown bins and it was explained that the targets were for the year 2019/2020, so did not cover the Covid-19 pandemic period. It was explained that there had been an increase in the amount of brown bins requested and there had also been a problem with the software used previously, which had resulted in some incorrect figures being reported.

**RESOLVED:** The Panel reviewed the performance monitoring report and agreed the actions outlined in the Action Report.

EC108: **WORK PROGRAMME AND FORWARD DECISION LIST**

[Click here to view the You Tube Recording of this item.](#)

The following items were suggested for inclusion on the Work Programme:

- Update on HMO's
- Update on Flood Defences, soil erosion and water retention.
- Presentation from the IDB on their role and function.
- Peat bogs and CO2 emissions.
- Housing Standards in the Borough's Housing Stock, with a link to child poverty.
- Urban Wildlife
- Anti Littering Campaign
- Together for Rivers Campaign.
- Wild East Nature Recovery Programme.
- Modern Slavery.

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

EC109: **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Environment and Community Panel would be held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 3.00pm.

**The meeting closed at 4.07 pm**