

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES SUB-COMMITTEE held at 7.30 pm at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN on 14 MARCH 2000

Present:- Councillor W F Bowker - Chairman.
Councillors Mrs C A Cant, Mrs D Cornell, Mrs C D Down, Mrs S Flack, M A Gayler and D M Miller.

Also present at the Chairman's invitation:- Councillor Mrs J E Menell.

Officers in attendance:- P Anderson, W Cockerell, Mrs L J Crowe,
T Greenwood, R M Secker and P J Snow.

I. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Dean, A C Streeter and A R Thawley.

I. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 30 November 1999 were received, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

I. REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

(i) Essex Based Consortium

The Head of Environmental Services reported on the issues raised at a recent meeting of the Essex Waste Consortium. In reply to a question about composting from Councillor Miller, officers said that at present there was dialogue between the Districts and County Council to try and ensure more flexibility in allowing for local small scale schemes.

I. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES WORK PROGRAMME 2000/01

Members received a report which suggested a work programme for Environmental Services for 2000/01. Officers confirmed that the work programme was for 2000/01 and not 1999/2000 as had been printed on one sheet by mistake. Members queried whether some services should be reactive or programmed. In reply to a question from Councillor Gayler, the Head of Environmental Services confirmed that he had spoken to the Great Dunmow Town Clerk and the District Council would be supporting the Town Council in using its bailiff to deal with the dog fouling on Town Council property in Great Dunmow.

RESOLVED that the Environmental Services Work Programme 2000/01 be approved.

I. AIR QUALITY REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT STAGE II

Members received a report which detailed the second stage of the review and assessment of air quality in the Uttlesford area. It built on the conclusions from the first stage which had been published in March 1999 and on the results of the subsequent consultation. It further recommended that the Stage II review and assessment be circulated to all appropriate consultees and that a further review and assessment be carried out during 2002. The officers gave an undertaking that the results of the consultation would be reported to Members.

The Principal Environmental Health Officer apologised for the technical nature of the report and went through the report highlighting the main areas of concern. The report dealt with three main issues:-

- (i) Long term exposure standards,
- (ii) Short term exposure standards,
- (iii) Stansted Airport.

Councillor Mrs Cant asked whether there should be a resolution in the District Plan to encourage people not to build too near to the roadside. In answer to a question from Councillor Mrs Menell, the Head of Environmental Services said that it would not be appropriate for the District Council to use electric vehicles as Uttlesford was a large rural area. However, the District Council did use low sulphur diesel which was one of the least polluting fuels. It was

RESOLVED that the Stage II review and assessment of air quality as detailed in the report be approved and issued for public consultation.

I. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES SERVICE STATEMENT

Members received a report advising them of the need to adopt Equal Opportunities Service statements for the Environmental Services Business Centre.

Councillor Mrs Flack highlighted the fact that there might be a conflict in the wording of the aims and the procedures of the service statements. After discussion it was agreed that there was no need to alter the wording because the aim was a general objective to be worked towards and it was inevitable that in such a large rural area there would be a few properties that would not receive the same level of service as the majority of properties in more accessible areas.

RESOLVED that the Equal Opportunities Service Statement be adopted.

I. RECYCLING OF YELLOW PAGES TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES

Members received a report detailing methods by which the Yellow Pages directories could be collected for recycling. Following communications with BT, it appeared that the next issue of the directory would be the final one produced with dyed paper. BT were intending to change to white pages in a yellow cover and were hopeful that this type of paper would be acceptable in the normal recycling processes.

Members requested that the public be reminded not to include Yellow Pages telephone directories in the black box collections. They suggested that a reminder could be included in the next council page to be published in the local press.

RESOLVED that no further action be taken on the recycling of the Yellow Pages telephone directories, but that the situation be kept under review.

I. REAL NAPPY AWARENESS WEEK

Members received a report which discussed the alternatives to the current practice of using disposable nappies. Councillor Mrs Menell distributed a report by Essex County Council to Members on a campaign for the use of reusable nappies to coincide with Real Nappy Week 17 - 23 April 2000. Councillor Gayler suggested that the Government should be urged to add a 10% tax on disposable nappies. The extra money could be reinvested towards the cost of recycling the disposable nappies and encouraging the use of reusable nappies.

RESOLVED that Real Nappy Awareness Week be endorsed and supported and that a letter be sent to the appropriate Government department urging the adoption of a tax to contribute towards the cost of recycling disposable nappies.

I. ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENT

Members received a report for information which advised them of the events that had taken place since the Korean Air crash near Stansted Airport and the action taken to identify and remove any environmental contamination from the site.

In answer to a question from Councillor Mrs Flack, the Head of Environmental Services confirmed that any contaminated soil removed from the site would go to a licensed landfill site. Following further discussion it was

RESOLVED that a letter be sent to DETR highlighting Members' concerns about aircraft containing depleted uranium using UK airspace.

I. GREEN BOX RECYCLING SCHEME

The Sub-Committee received a report, for information, on the progress of the new recycling scheme for collecting plastic bottles, cans and textiles introduced in January 2000.

Members commented favourably on the scheme and Councillor Mrs Down requested that flats in the District be provided with a communal green box rather than individual green boxes.

I. RECYCLING PROJECT IN TWO KENT VILLAGES

A report was received by Members which detailed the intensive recycling operation undertaken by two villages in the administrative area of Ashford Borough Council, Kent.

I. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 1999/2000

Members received details of the third budgetary control report on the Sub-Committee for 1999/2000. The report was based on data within the Council's financial management system at the end of month 11 of the financial year, ie 29 February 2000. It could be seen that at this stage there were two significant variations. Expenditure on refuse collection was likely to exceed its budget because of a one-off increase in the refuse collection contract and extra disposal costs also incurred. This had been largely off-set by an increase in refuse container income.

In reply to a question from Councillor Gayler, the Head of Environmental Services explained that Dunmow Town Council had obtained planning permission for the Dunmow Cemetery, but before the land could be used, an archaeological survey would have to be carried out. Councillor Mrs Flack requested that the original budget estimates should be included in future budget monitoring reports.

I. LAST MEETING

The Chairman thanked the Members and officers for their support and assistance during the last year.

The meeting ended at 9.15 pm.