

**WASTE STRATEGY PROJECT TEAM held at COUNCIL OFFICES
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 10 am on 3 SEPTEMBER 2009**

Present: Councillor S Barker (Chairman).
Councillors J Cheetham, C Dean, C Down, and E Godwin.

Officers: C Auckland (Waste and Recycling Officer), D Johnson (Street Services Supervisor), R Pridham (Head of Street Services),
R Procter (Democratic Services Officer).

WS9 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C Cant and from Diane Burridge.

The Chairman welcomed Catherine Auckland to the meeting.

WS10 MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2009 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the following amendment:

At Minute WS5, CUBE Partnership Exploration, the reference to Harlow Council should be deleted, as it was not one of the prospective partner authorities.

WS11 CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR COLLECTION SCHEDULE

As the meeting had been preceded by informal discussion of this item, the Chairman suggested that the Group consider this item next on the Agenda.

The schedule originally circulated with the Agenda had now been changed. Members commented as follows: that it was important that the schedule be publicised in good time (particularly having regard to early deadlines for various local publications); that the arrangements be kept as simple as possible; that it be emphasised that it was only black bins that would be collected during Christmas week, and not kitchen waste; and that people be asked to bundle up cardboard and polystyrene which did not fit in the bins, to be collected as side waste.

There was discussion around the collection of side waste, following a request by Councillor Godwin that she would like her thanks to be passed on to the crews who had returned to collect side waste on several occasions recently. Councillor C Dean said she had reservations about this practice. The policy of not collecting waste unless it was in a bin should be adhered to, except at Christmas, as this approach could be inequitable.

Action:

Officers to publicise the revised schedule of Christmas and New Year collection arrangements via 'Uttlesford Life', parish magazines, emails to Parish and District Councillors, and by means of a press release shortly before Christmas.

WS12

MATTERS ARISING

(i) Minute WS3 – Planning application for Civic Amenity Site at Dunmow and Crumps Farm

It was noted that Andrew Brown, or his representative, was due to speak at the next South Area Forum. The Chairman said she had emailed planning officers at the County for an update, but unfortunately the response indicated a lack of progress. Members expressed concern at the continuing delay, and requested that the Chairman seek an explanation from County.

(ii) Minute WS4 - Caddy Trial

Councillor C Dean referred to the issue of a green waste review. She had received representations from elderly people in transporting heavy green waste to the collection point, as the bags supplied were rather thin. The Street Services Supervisor said bags of a more robust design were now being supplied. Further comments on this subject included exploring the future possibility of providing a green waste chipping service.

(iii) Minute WS7 – Trade Waste Review

The Head of Street Services said no response had yet been received from the County Council regarding a review of the tonnage methodology to be used.

WS13

INTER AUTHORITY AGREEMENT

The Head of Street Services gave an update on progress. The IAA had been brought in across Essex. Indexation for division of the fund available had been agreed, based on fuel costs, labour costs and vehicle maintenance. Of these, labour costs were the highest. These would be based on Local Government Association indices. Fuel costs would be reviewed quarterly, as they were subject to fluctuation. Clarification was being sought on tipping away payments, as Uttlesford had to pay fuel costs of transporting food waste onwards from Braintree to Envar Ltd, near Bury St Edmunds.

The Head of Street Services said the claim of £110K for the first quarter had been submitted. The agreement was to be signed on 14 September, having previously been agreed by Council.

WS14

CUBEC JOINT WORKING

The Head of Street Services gave an update on the appointment of consultants to explore joint working between Colchester (which had recently entered the discussions), Uttlesford, Braintree, Essex and Chelmsford councils on waste collection services. The consultants White Young Green had been appointed at a shared cost of £50K, of which County were paying £30K, in the interests of encouraging partnership working. A final report was due in January or February.

Members asked several questions relating to the variation between different collection methods across the councils. Officers were of the view that some councils would cherry pick, whilst others, in particular, Braintree, were looking at all aspects of joint collection services. Members hoped partnership working would lead to inconsistencies being addressed in delivery of services across borders.

WS15

EDUCATIONAL WORK TO DEAL WITH DOG FOULING

It was noted that Dunmow Town Councillors had initially not been informed of the educational work to deal with dog fouling at Woodlands Park. Officers confirmed they had now emailed the Town Clerk with details of this work, and that local town councillors would be contacted direct.

The Group noted the Council had no formal policy on the provision of either dog waste or litter bins, but that a street cleaning strategic review due to take place next year would look at this area. The review would encompass education and enforcement.

In the meantime, officers would undertake the agreed exercise at Woodlands Park, by speaking to dog walkers and distributing a leaflet on responsible dog ownership. It was noted that the number of complaints had died down, even though no additional bins had been provided.

The Head of Street Services said it was important that education should be backed up by enforcement. Members agreed, but requested clarification of the options for enforcement, in particular the division of responsibility between parish councils and the District Council. Such information was necessary to enable correct signage to be displayed in play areas and other areas where dog fouling was a problem. Members also asked for information on whether dog waste could be disposed of in flushable bags.

Action:

- 1 Officers to provide clarification to Members on responsibility for enforcement options for dog fouling.
- 2 Officers to find out if regulations would prevent flushing dog waste, and whether suitable disposal bags existed.

The Group considered further the impact of displaying appropriate notices in areas subject to dog fouling. It was agreed that notices which implied such

areas were monitored could be effective, and that it was important to ensure people understood that they could use their black bin to dispose of dog waste (with the exception of kennels, where such waste would be deemed commercial).

WS16

ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

The Head of Street Services reported on the reduced cost of recycling per household. In 2006/07 when the three-bin system was introduced, the cost of recycling per household was £72. In 2007/08 it was £62.37; and in 2008/09 it was £55.54. Members considered this information, and noted that whilst additional houses of about 400 a year had come into recycling, no additional vehicles had been taken on, and would be likely to be sufficient for one to two more years.

The Waste and Recycling Officer gave an update of the use of the kitchen waste caddies for flats and properties previously exempt. An article would appear in the next Tenants' newsletter inviting people in such properties to request a caddy. Members made suggestions for the approach officers might take in respect of non-Council properties, such as village by village, or approaching new developments, particularly affordable housing.

Action:

- 1 Officers to bring a report to the next meeting on the level of recycling which could be achieved once flats and exempt properties took up kitchen caddies.
- 2 Officers to email Members with addresses of properties which were exempt.

Councillor Cheetham asked for an update on the cul de sacs trial at Layfield. Officers replied that this work had been delayed in order for building works to be concluded first.

WS17

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be on 3 November at 11 am.