

Time commenced 6.00 pm
Time finished 7.20 pm

**PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION
21 NOVEMBER 2005**

Present: Councillor Ahern (in the Chair)
Councillors P Berry, Baxter, Care, Carr, Leeming, Rehman and West

45/05 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Tittley.

46/05 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

47/05 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

48/05 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2005 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

49/05 Call-In

There were no call-ins.

Items for Discussion

50/05 Performance Eye

The Commission considered a report from the Director of Development and Cultural Services on performance indicators BV99a(i) to BV99c(iii) – Road Accident Casualties. Tony Gascoigne, Traffic Control Engineer, advised the Commission that the Council was working with the Police Authority and the Health Authority to try to reduce the number of casualties. The department was also trying to rotate education awareness campaigns around schools and there would be a road safety quiz going to schools in Alvaston shortly.

They were also providing guidance and training to drivers, cyclists and pedestrians. So far they had trained 400 drivers on the improvement scheme and each year cycling proficiency training was given to year six pupils across the city. Pedestrian training was provided to younger children highlighting the dangers of crossing roads.

Casualty information for 2003-04 was available on the Councils website and was broken down by ward. A copy of the information available was circulated to the Commission.

Councillor Carr stated that it would be useful to understand the details behind the figures.

Councillor Ahern asked if the Council worked with the Child Accident Prevention Trust, as information had been distributed to households in Chaddesden. According to their statistics 27 under 16 had been injured in the Chaddesden area which contradicted the Councils statistics. Their figures were very sketchy.

Tony responded that the Council were trying to contact this organisation to find out where their statistics were gathered from. He thought that they based their figures on four years, the Council used three years. The new statistics on the Council website were broken down by child/adult accident.

Councillor Leeming asked if there was any indication of which accidents were related to drugs and alcohol. Tony Gascoigne advised that this information could be provided to the Commission. Campaigns were used to influence driver behaviour.

Councillor West commented that he had tried to get traffic lights installed at the end of Morley Road. He said he had been told that due to low accident figures this would not be possible and thought this was wrong as there were many accidents that happened at this junction. Tony explained that only accidents involving casualties were recorded other accidents were not. When determining the siting of traffic signals other factors besides the number of casualties were considered.

Resolved to note the update.

Work Plan 2005/6

51/05 Review of Council's Energy Use

The Commission considered a report prepared by Professor Fleming of De Montfort University on behalf of the Commission. The report looked at energy costs, the security of supply and legislative issues around the use of energy in Derby.

Councillor Ahern stated that more work was needed from the Sub-Group to look at the report and recommendations to produce a comprehensive report for Council Cabinet. A report would need to come back to the Commission for approval. The Council needed to look at measures that could be implemented quickly. Funding from savings could then be channelled into future work on these issues.

Councillor Care highlighted Professor Fleming's suggestion that an energy working group be set up, comprising one officer per £1million spent on energy. She commented that this needed to be included in the Commission's recommendations to Council Cabinet.

Councillor Ahern asked that Members forward their views on Professor Fleming's report and suggestions for inclusion in the report from Council Cabinet, to the Overview and Scrutiny Coordination Officer by 24 November 2005.

Resolved to present an interim report including Professor Fleming's initial recommendations to Council Cabinet.

52/05 Review of the Installation of Mercury Abatement Plant at Markeaton Crematorium

The Commission considered a report of the Working Group produced on behalf of the Commission on the way in which the Council might comply with the DEFRA regulations for controlling emissions from Markeaton Crematorium.

Councillor Baxter thanked Officers and the Working Party for conducting this review which had highlighted the serious issues that had to be addressed by the Council in order to control mercury emissions from the Crematorium.

Councillor Leeming commented that the Working Group was looking at the long term solution and not a short term one. He felt that the Working Group had produced a good report that reflected their findings.

Resolved to present the working group's final report to Council Cabinet.

53/05 Waste Strategy

The Commission received an oral report from Colin Stewart, Contract Development Manager, on the Waste Strategy. The Commission had had an opportunity to view the Waste Strategy document – Looking After Derbyshire's Waste, prior to the meeting. The Strategy covered all Authorities in Derbyshire and aimed to increase the rate of recycling to 45-55%. Once the Rethink Rubbish programme had been fully implemented the City's recycling rate would be at approximately 40%. Currently the City was recycling almost 30% of its waste. The strategy document was currently out for public consultation. The strategy was driven by the Governments recycling targets and LATS. The strategy was not prescriptive and did not suggest solutions but recommended that Authorities should look at three treatment methods. The final choice would be dependent upon cost, public opinion and transportation problems.

The final report on the consultation would be taken jointly to Derby City and Derbyshire County Councils for their consideration.

Councillor Berry expressed concern about the proposed recycling plant in Spondon and the issues with transportation to and from the site. The Contractor was currently tendering out to other Authorities which would make the transportation problems even worse.

Resolved to note the report.

54/05 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

There were no items.

55/05 Responses of the Council Cabinet to any reports of the Commission

Review of Dog Control/Dog Fouling

The Commission considered the response of Council Cabinet from their meeting on 18 October 2005.

Councillor Ahern reported that he had met with Andrew Hopkin, Assistant Director – Environmental Health and Trading Standards who supported the Commissions views but there was constrained by restricted funding.

The Commission hoped that bullet point five of recommendation one – Identify a local kennels or other facility that could be used to either temporarily or in the long term, hold stray dogs during done this financial year. The Commission looked forward to a further response from Council Cabinet at a future meeting.

Resolved to ask the Council Cabinet member what action would be taken in response to the Commission's recommendations.

56/05 Matters Referred to the Commission by Council Cabinet

There were no items

MINUTES END