

Time commenced 6.00 pm
Time finished 7.40 pm

**PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION
17 OCTOBER 2005**

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

29/05 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

30/05 Late Items Introduced by the Chair

In accordance with Section 100 (B) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair agreed to admit the following two items as a matter of urgency as a decision needed to be taken before the next scheduled meeting of the Committee:

Minute no 39/05- Draft revised nature conservation strategy and accompanying sustainability appraisal

Minute no 40/05 - Control of Mercury Emissions from Crematoriums

31/05 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

32/05 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2005 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

33/05 Call-In

There were no call-ins.

Items for Discussion

34/05 Retrospective Scrutiny

Fortnightly black bin collection

The Commission were advised that the Council were half way through the introduction of the Rethink Rubbish scheme, which had introduced alternate weekly black bin and brown bin collections. Issues had been raised regarding the smell from

black bins and infestations of maggots in some cases. John Hansed, Head of Street Care and Waste Management, advised that the best way they had found to tackle this problem was to give advice to members of the public on how to reduce the possibility of infestations of maggots in their dustbins. In the last 12 months, 200 people had complained about maggots in bins, which was less than 0.5% of the people who were using the twin bin scheme. The problem would reduce in spring as due to a new composting plant in Ashbourne the brown bin would be able to take food waste. If, as had been suggested, the Council reintroduced the weekly black bin collection, the cost would increase by around £1million per year.

Councillor Tittley commented that he had received many complaints from people about maggots in dustbins and said this was not just down to food waste. He said it was unsatisfactory to have black bins collected fortnightly and he thought it was a false economy collecting at this frequency. He thought it was a good idea that the Council were going to deal with food waste differently, although he did not think young families were being considered fully.

Councillor Berry advised that he was sure more than 200 people had experienced problems with maggots in their bins. He had spoken with the bin cleaner who cleaned dustbins in the Spondon area and he had confirmed there were a huge amount of bins that he cleaned that had maggots in them. Maggots had also been reported in the brown bins.

Councillor Carr added that he had gone six weeks without putting his black bin out and that his bin had not been cleaned for 20 years, it didn't smell and he did not have a problem with maggots. It was an issue of advising people of how to dispose of their waste appropriately.

Councillor Leeming commented that the brown bin should be collected all year round as he anticipated that he would be cutting his grass throughout the year so did not want a reduction in the collection. Also he felt that people should not have a choice and they must put compostable waste in the brown bin. Councillor Care added that she agreed that the brown bins should be emptied throughout the year as all biodegradable waste should be put in the brown bins. Also, people should be being encouraged to home compost.

Ian Donnelly, Group Leader – Public Health, advised that Environmental Health had not received many complaints regarding maggot infestation. Part of the problem was the potential for waste to attract flies, particularly in hot weather, their advice was for waste to be bagged and tied before putting in the dustbin, and then flies could not get in.

Councillor Tittley stated that recycling was good but if you had three kids and busy lives it was not helpful for them not to have their black bins collected weekly. He asked for a review of the disposal of food waste in 12 months time to see how effective this had been.

Councillor Ahern reported that one of the issues brought up in the Best Value Review of this service in 1997 was introducing composting soil nappies. This represented 2% of waste at that time. Also at this time, the percentage of waste from households that

could be recycled was approximately 80%. He asked for feedback and updated figures at a future meeting.

Resolved

- 1 To note the report**
- 2 To ask for an update at a future meeting**

35/05 Consideration of Objections to A514 weight restrictions

The Commission considered a report previously considered by Council Cabinet at their meeting on 6 September 2005. The report outlined the progress which had been made in progressing the A514 weight restriction, agreed by Council in March 2005. Following the consultation exercise, objections to the proposal had been received from the Freight Transport Association and Mr Pratt of 175 Chellaston Road. Those objections had raised relative and valid points.

David Gartside, Head of Traffic, advised that the restrictions for the A514 and A6 would be implemented by the end of November. The Council was currently waiting for a response from the County Council as some of these roads went into their areas. Signage was also needed on the A50 and this had not yet been agreed with the Highways Agency. The weight restrictions needed to be publicised and the Police needed to be approached to ensure they enforced the weight restrictions, particularly in the early stages.

Councillor Tittley suggested that the Commission write to the Police asking for their cooperation in enforcing the weight restrictions. Councillor Carr commented that he was concerned that the Police would not prosecute drivers if there was no signage on the A50 and suggested that the Commission should also write to the Highways Agency about signage.

Resolved

- 1 To support the weight restrictions on the A514**
- 2 To write to the Derbyshire Constabulary asking for their cooperation in enforcing the weight restrictions.**
- 3 To write to the Highways Agency requesting signage on the A50.**

36/05 Review of the Promotion of the City's New Bus Services

The Commission were given leaflets used to promote the new bus routes and the changes to bus services due to the closure of the bus station. Councillor Carr commented that the leaflet regarding the closure of the bus station and where buses

would stop was excellent. The Commission were advised that this leaflet would also be promoted on buses and at bus stops.

David Gartside responded that there was the intention to get information to as many bus stops as possible. The number 35 bus mainly operated on a hail basis which created the problem as there were no stops to put the timetable on. David added that the leaflets would be reissued in December.

Councillor Ahern stated that this initiative was borne out of this Commission's work and was a demonstration of how cross-party political working could produce a good result. The Commission thanked officers for their work on this.

37/05 Cycle Demonstration Town

The Commission considered a report from the Director of Corporate Services advising that at its meeting on 5 September 2005, the Planning and Environment Commission had resolved to indicate its support for the Cycling England bid by looking at the provision of cycle storage at flats and apartments.

Derby had been short listed for possible support as a Cycle Demonstration Town. David Gartside, Head of Traffic, informed the Commission that the Council had focused on promoting cycling for young people in the city.

David Gartside advised the Committee that the bid would mean £1.5million for Derby over three years. This did mean that the Authority would need to commit complementary funding. The Council were looking at whether, with investment and focused effort, peoples' attitudes to using cycles could be changed. This funding would help the Council to lever in funding from other streams.

Stewart Todd, Head of Development Control & Land Searches, advised that there was a planning condition relating to applications for new residential or commercial properties, which required that a development should not be taken into use until details of cycle and motorcycle parking provision for staff and customers/visitors had been submitted to and agreed in writing by the local planning authority and until such provision has been implemented.

Resolved to note the report.

38/05 Performance Eye

David Romaine, Overview & Scrutiny and Complaints Manager, advised that he had asked for figures on Road Traffic Accidents to be presented at the next meeting. He asked that members advise him of any other items they wanted considered at future meetings.

39/05 Draft revised Nature Conservation Strategy and accompanying Sustainability Appraisal

The Commission considered a report from the Director of Development & Cultural Services asking for the Commission's view on the draft revised Nature Conservation Strategy. The draft objective was to protect and enhance the wildlife and geological heritage of the city and to promote people's access, enjoyment and understanding of it and thereby to further national and international obligations in natural history protection and enhancement.

The draft revised Nature and Conservation Strategy would be taken to Council Cabinet in December 2005. A draft framework for action would be produced and presented early next year which would include firmer actions. The formal public consultation on the strategy and its accompanying appraisal report had been undertaken in accordance with the Town and County Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004. The documents were on deposit for comment for six weeks and were also sent to various bodies and individuals for comment. The document was also discussed at the DCP Environment City Executive. All these comments were now being analysed.

Councillor Care suggested changing the content of Aim 1 as the wording was ambiguous. Dave Slinger, Team Leader – Natural Environment, advised that the most important species were already identified at national and local levels in the Biodiversity Action Plans.

Resolved

- 1 To note the report**
- 2 To receive more information at a future meeting**
- 3 To ask that a summary of the points in a simpler format be produced to be sent to schools once approved by Council Cabinet**

40/05 Control of Mercury Emissions from Crematoriums

Councillor Baxter had raised this issue as DEFRA wanted to know before the 31 December 2005, how the Council was going to control mercury emissions from its crematorium.

Councillor Carr supported work into this although he felt the Commission were worrying unnecessarily as a lot of work was already being done on this in Commercial Services.

David Romaine commented that if the Council did not comply with the Government's guidance they would be prosecuted by DEFRA. Councillor Ahern suggested setting up a small sub committee to review this topic. Councillor Baxter advised that this needed to be looked at very carefully and said he was happy to talk to Geoff Hall, Assistant Director of Commercial Services.

Resolved

- 1 To include control of mercury emissions from crematoriums in the work programme.**
- 2 To form a sub group comprising Councillors Carr, Baxter and Leeming to look at these issues in more detail.**

41/05 State of Report on a Proposed Review of Energy Use by Derby City Council

David Romaine, Scrutiny and Complaints Manager, advised the Commission that he had received a letter from De Montfort University offering to undertake work on this issue for us. Professor Fleming at the University was offering to do a lot more than originally asked for by the Commission. The cost of this would be around £2500 but would enable the Commission to complete the Review a lot quicker. Councillor Ahern stated that he was cautious taking this money out of the budget until he knew what the Commission would be spending it on. The proposal was discussed and there was strong support from the Commission.

Councillor Care asked that Senior Officers should be invited to attend the presentation by Professor Fleming.

Resolved

- 1 To ask the Scrutiny and Complaints Manager to speak to Professor Fleming at De Montfort University to find out more about the service they were offering and if relevant to the Commission's review to give the Overview & Scrutiny and Complaints Manager the authority to agree to this work.**

42/05 Council Cabinet Forward Plan

There were no items.

43/05 Responses of the Council Cabinet to any reports of the Commission

There were no items.

44/05 Matters referred to the Commission by Council Cabinet

There were no items

MINUTES END