

Minutes of the ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL WELLBEING COMMITTEE  
of Bridport Town Council held in Mountfield, Bridport on Wednesday  
25 March 2009 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Cllrs: D.G. Rickard (in the chair)

Cllr: N.K. Cast                      K.G. Wallace  
      Ms R.C. Kayes                C.D. Wild  
      Ms F.K. McKenzie        Ms S.J. Williams

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

Neil Ramsden, Simon Williams and Robin Bryer spoke on behalf of the St Andrew's Residents Association. They spoke against the proposal for a Waste Transfer Station at Gore Cross. In particular, they highlighted the potential traffic problems and proposed an alternative site at Broomhills Farm, off the A35 and also at the Eype Junction. They questioned the Highways Agency's traffic data and tabled a comprehensive survey in support of their case.

#### **47. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies for absence.

#### **48. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 17 December 2008 were confirmed as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **49. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Minute 51 - Waste Transfer Station - Councillor Ms R.C. Kayes declared a personal interest as she lived about a quarter of a mile from the site.

Minute 51 - Waste Transfer Station - Councillor N.K. Cast declared a personal interest as he lived in St Andrew's Road.

Minute 51 - Waste Transfer Station - Councillor C.D. Wild declared a personal interest as an officer of the Bridport Environment Group.

The above interests were not considered to be prejudicial and the members were able to participate in consideration of the item.

Minute 51 - Waste Transfer Station - Councillor K. G. Wallace left the room during the discussion and the vote on the site-specific issues, as he was a member of the District Council's Development Control Committee. Councillor Wallace also declared a personal interest as an employee of Bridport Hospital.

#### **50. FLOOD PLAN**

The Town Clerk reported that a Flood Awareness Day was to be held on Bucky Doo Square on Saturday 18 April at which the Town Council, alongside the

Environment Agency, would be seeking to find volunteers to be flood wardens. It was then intended to draw up a Flood Plan, to be presented to the Town Council for approval.

The report was noted for information.

## **51. WASTE TRANSFER STATION**

Councillors considered a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2046.

Councillor C.D. Wild reported a letter sent to the County Council by the Environment Group raising a number of questions on the proposal.

The Chairman of the Committee, Councillor D.G. Rickard, the Town Council's representative on the County Council's Executive Advisory Panel on the Transfer Station, reported that he had tabled a series of questions at the first meeting of that Panel. The questions were circulated to members of the Committee. The questions included asking the County Council if the need for a combined Household Recycling and Waste Transfer Station should be reviewed, given the conflicting needs in terms of transport and location. The County Council was also asked whether, in the light of demands for drastic reductions in waste generation, it would not be more sustainable to launch a 'Zero Waste' pilot.

The Committee endorsed the questions.

The Town Clerk explained that the Town Council was not being asked for comments on the proposal to site a Waste Transfer Station. He also reported the previous decision taken by the Town Council in 2004, as part of the consultation on the draft Waste Local Plan. However, the Town Council had now been asked to participate in the County Council's Executive Advisory Panel and it was therefore appropriate for members to consider whether to comment on this proposal, in the light of developments, including the County Council's published proposals.

In discussion of the site-specific issues, the Committee raised a number of concerns about the proposal to site the Transfer Station at Gore Cross. These included the location of the site (on farmland at the entrance to a Jurassic Coast gateway town); the reported opposition of two separate planning inquiries to this site; the site not being in the West Dorset Local Plan and the impact of the traffic to be generated by the site on the already busy residential A3066 St Andrew's Road and surrounding roads. The Committee felt that the County Council should address these concerns and that they be reported at the next meeting of the County Council's Executive Advisory Panel.

### **RECOMMEND:**

- (1) that the questions tabled at the County Council's Executive Advisory Panel be endorsed as attached at Appendix A to these minutes.
- (2) that in response to the proposal to site a waste transfer station at Gore Cross and without prejudice to the Town Council's consideration of any future planning application, the following site specific concerns be approved:

- the location of the site (on farmland at the entrance to a Jurassic Coast gateway town);
- the reported opposition of two separate planning inquiries to this site;
- the site not being in the West Dorset Local Plan,
- the impact of the traffic to be generated by the site on the already busy residential A3066 St Andrews Road and surrounding roads.

The Town Clerk to be given delegated authority to finalise the wording of the response as in (2) above, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee and the Leader of the Council.

## **52. ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT OF TOWN COUNCIL BUILDINGS AND SERVICES**

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2047.

RESOLVED: that the draft Environmental Audit Action Plan be agreed and the Town Clerk be given delegated authority to appoint an independent recognised body to conduct a full audit of the Town Council's services, at a cost of no more than £1,000.

## **53. WASTE COLLECTION AND STREET CLEANING**

Councillors considered a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2048.

Members raised the following issues:

- there was a reported problem for some small commercial premises that their waste was collected on Fridays and not again until Monday. Waste was therefore left uncollected over the weekend. It was felt that this should be raised with the Chamber of Trade and Commerce to see if it was a widespread problem for small business premises and, if it was, the District Council be asked whether it was possible to provide a Saturday collection for these premises.
- could the street cleaner go round the streets after the bins have been collected and not before.
- there had been a problem of rubbish having to be left out all night with the very early collections, leading to bags being damaged overnight. It was asked if the rubbish was now being collected later, which might improve the situation. This would be confirmed with the District Council.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted and the Town Clerk raise the issue of commercial waste collection with the Chamber of Trade and Commerce.

## **54. COMMUNITY JUSTICE PANELS**

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2049.

The Chairman reported back on the visit to see the successful scheme in Chard.

RESOLVED: that subject to initial discussion with the police, the Town Clerk co-ordinates a meeting of relevant agencies to assess the feasibility of, and support for, introducing a community justice scheme in Bridport.

**55. RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES – DEFIBRILLATORS**

Councillors considered a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2050.

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk investigates the availability of grants for the purchase of a defibrillator, and look at the training and maintenance implications of providing a machine, and report back to the next meeting of this Committee.

**56. ENERGY AWARENESS WEEK EVENTS 2009**

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, ENCL: 2051.

It was agreed that the energy awareness week should be held again this year, with the Town Council participating in the following events:

|               |         |
|---------------|---------|
| Food Festival | 27 June |
| Energy Day    | 1 July  |
| Charter Fair  | 4 July  |

This year's events would particularly include information on transition towns and the community orchard.

RECOMMEND: that the Town Council promote and support the energy awareness week for 2009 including attendance at the above events, with funding of up to £500 from the Committee's budget.

**57. UPDATES**

The Chairman reported for information on:

- Transition Towns - the web site was now up and running and there would be a presentation at the BLAP AGM.
- Sustainability SW Conference - the Chairman had attended the Conference and reported back. Draft recommendations to embed sustainable development principles into the new regional arrangements, including the regional strategy, had been published on their web site.

It was mentioned that the Lyme Regis Development Trust was hosting an event on support available for people during the recession and members felt that they should consider if such an event could be held in Bridport.

**58. OPEN SPACES AND RECREATION TASK FORCE**

Councillor C.D. Wild highlighted the discussion on the New Zealand site (land to the south of the housing allocation) and asked if it was possible to seek clarification on the use of the land, now that agreement had been given to transfer it to the Town Council. This was supported by the Committee, and the Town Clerk agreed to raise this with the District Council.

In discussion of the Flaxhayes scheme, it was asked that the next Stakeholders meeting confirm the position on the meeting hall and the play area. The decision to include the bridge in the planning application was noted and it was asked that the next meeting of this Committee receive a full report on cycle routes in the town.

RESOLVED: that the notes of the Open Spaces Working Group meeting of 14 January be received and noted and the following action be approved:

- the Town Clerk to contact the District Council for an update on the New Zealand site.
- the Town Clerk seek clarification on elements of the Flaxhayes scheme regarding a meeting hall and play area.
- the Committee receive a report to its next meeting on cycle routes.

**59. ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP**

The notes of the Open Spaces Working Group meeting of 25 February were received and noted.

It was noted that the Group was working on the draft Climate Change Strategy and would be consulting on elements within the draft Strategy, prior to bringing it to the Council for adoption.

RESOLVED: that the notes of the Environment Working Group be received and the work on the draft Climate Change Strategy be noted.

**60. CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items of correspondence.

**61. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME**

It was noted that the Committee had requested a report on cycle routes to be presented to its next meeting.

The meeting closed at **8.45 p.m.**

**The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 8 July 2009**

**Questions to the Waste Management Centre Panel**

1. If the provision of a Waste Transfer Station has been written into SITA's contract for 15 years, why has nothing been done? Are they not therefore in breach of their contract?
  2. Would DCC be willing to carry out a reassessment of the need and the justification for such a facility in the light of current global, national and local concerns about the contribution of waste disposal to global warming?
  3. Given the difficulties of reaching an agreement over 15 years, wouldn't now be the right time to explore the possibility of taking a radical approach to the issues of waste in the western end of West Dorset, and set up a Zero Waste Pilot Project which would significantly reduce the volume of waste needing transporting?
  4. Would the Council consider exploring the potential for the formation of a partnership of local authorities, town and parish councils, community partnerships, business organisations and environmental groups (a la Pathfinder protocols), to develop a more radical approach to the issue of waste reduction in the area? In so doing, we could encourage local industries to process waste on site, create new jobs and income for Bridport and reduce 'waste miles'.
- (NB. A number of local authorities have achieved Beacon status for their efforts in the field of waste and recycling. This particular situation might offer Dorset an opportunity to do the same.)*
5. Given that the old concept of predict and provide flies in the face of sustainable development, is the scale of the planned site compatible with the goal to reduce waste year on year?
  6. Does the Council recognise that the location and transport requirements of a Waste Transfer Station and Household Recycling Centre are significantly different, thus making the job of locating a suitable dual purpose site highly problematic?
  7. Given that the HRC must be readily accessible to residents of the town, but the transfer of bulk waste should be kept as far away as possible from the town and from residential roads, and therefore does not actually have to be in Bridport at all, is it not now therefore time to consider separating these functions?
  8. Given that the stretch of A35 around Bridport is given a low strategic priority and a high local priority in providing access to local services, according to the Highways Agency's own guidelines, why has DCC not challenged their intransigence in these matters?
  9. Is it true that the Highways Agency has dropped its objections to the South West Quadrant and Lidl planning application regarding Load Volumes on the East Street roundabout, as a result of payments made to them?
  10. Is it not now time to consider an alternative solution, taking regard to the above questions?