

SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16 JULY 2009

Present: Councillors Mrs W Metherell, Chairman; Mrs E Eastwood; G Garrity; F Gleaves; F Heathcote; K Hitchen; J Park; W Southward; Mrs C Watson, P Watson; Mrs J Williams and Mrs M Woodburn.

Also present: Councillors G Clements and Mrs C McKenzie, Chief Executive of the Harbour Commissioners.

Officers: N White, Scrutiny Support Officer; C Coombs, Acting Head of Leisure and Environmental Services; T Magean, Open Spaces Manager; J Carrol, Waste Services Manager and C Willoughby, Member Services Technical Support Officer.

SSC 01/09 Minutes of the Meeting

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 April 2009 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

SSC 02/09 Whitehaven Multi Storey Car Park

Members were provided with some background surrounding the Multi Storey Car Park by Mrs McKenzie which highlighted in particular the problems with the stairs and lift.

During the discussion that followed, Members also asked about the other concerns previously raised following a site visit, these included poor signage and the toilet facilities being closed.

With regard to the toilets, Members were advised that there was no intention for these to be reopened.

As for the signage, Mrs McKenzie was unaware of any problem and it was suggested that the Member/Officer group that visited in 2008, revisit with Paul Burton, the Car Park Operations Manager.

Mrs McKenzie was thanked for attending this meeting and for providing the update.

RESOLVED – That

- a) the update on Whitehaven's Multi Storey Car Park from Mrs McKenzie be received, and
- b) the Member/Officer group revisit the Car Park with Paul Burton to look at the signage issues.

Departmental Presentation

T Magean, Open Spaces Manager, presented an overview to Members on the work undertaken by the Open Spaces Department, encompassing Streetscene, Enforcement and Parks.

During the presentation a number of successes were highlighted including:-

- secured £24k funding for four rapid deployment CCTV cameras.
- secured £35k for works in Egremont Castle Grounds.
- Achieving a number of ASPE (Association of Public Service Excellence) awards, four National Green Flag Awards, three National Green Heritage Awards, a National RHS Neighbourhood Award and a West Cumbria Crime, Disorder and Reduction Partnership Award.
- Secured Big Lottery funding to support five community play projects and Play-builder funding to support six further community play projects.

A number of service challenges were also highlighted, these included:-

- Chemical weed control to flower beds.
- Frequencies of Grass Cutting.
- Cremator Replacement at Distington Crematorium.

J Carrol, Waste Services Manager, then continued the presentation by providing Members with an overview of her service area.

The Committee was given details of refuse collections, recycling and environmental cleansing together with recent achievements and future challenges.

In the discussion that followed, Members suggested topics for future Task and Finish Groups. These are to include Grass Cutting; Environmental, Crime Education & Awareness and Recycling Participation Rates.

The refurbishment of the Bus Shelter at Waberthwaite was raised and the Open Spaces Manager was requested to investigate the current position and respond to Councillor Hitchen.

The Open Spaces Manager and Waste Services Manager were thanked for their presentations.

RESOLVED – that

- a) the presentations be received,
- b) the Open Spaces Manager be requested to investigate the current position regarding Waberthwaite Bus Shelter and respond to Councillor Hitchen, and

- c) a Task and Finish Group be created to initially look at Grass Cutting and the group to consist of Councillors Mrs W Metherell, Mrs E Eastwood, Mrs M Woodburn, P Watson, F Heathcote and if possible Community representatives.

SSC 04/09 Work Plan

Members considered the Committee's Work Plan.

It was requested that the report on Substance Abuse Policy be moved from the September meeting to later in the year, possibly the November meeting and the Housing Issues report also be moved to November to receive the Audit Commission's response on the Housing inspection..

RESOLVED: that the Work Plan be received and updated.

The Meeting Closed at 4:15pm

Signed:.....

Date:.....