

**A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT BOARD
WAS HELD ON 3 MARCH 2008**

The Mayor (Councillor Gill) (P); Chairman of the Policy and Organisation Board (Councillor Cully) (ex-officio) (P), Councillors Ms Ballard, Carr, Clinton (P), Dickson (P), Edgar (P), Kimber (P), Philpott (P), Smith (P), Wright (Chairman) (P) and Mrs Wright (P).

It was reported that, in accordance with Standing Orders, notice had been received that Councillor Taylor would replace Councillor Dickson for this meeting.

44. APOLOGIES

An apology for inability to attend the meeting was received on behalf of Councillor Dickson.

45. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Edgar declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 7 – Environmental Health Enforcement Policy.

46. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Board meeting held on 21 January 2008 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record subject to the words “at this time.” being added to the end of the Resolution to Item 41 on the Introduction of 20 mph Speed Restrictions.

47. DEPUTATIONS

It was reported that no deputations had been received.

48. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No questions had been received from the public.

PART II

49. PROJECT INTEGRA ANNUAL ACTION PLAN REVIEW 2008-2013

Consideration was given to a report of the Environmental Services Manager which sought approval for the adoption of the Project Integra Annual Action Plan 2008-2013 for the Partnership. Approval was sought in accordance with the current and revised Constitution.

In answer to a Member's question, it was confirmed that the weight of glass deposited in domestic bins was not known. Whilst it was acknowledged that

glass was a heavy item and that percentages for waste disposal and recycling were based on tonnage, it was considered more beneficial to achieve a Borough wide recycling collection before looking into the introduction of a kerbside glass collection. It was hoped that a recycling collection for St Georges Barracks and Clarence Yard would be introduced this month. However, higher recycling rates would need to be achieved to reach the 40% target for 2010.

It was confirmed that the income from green recycling was achieved through the sale of the green bags which were priced at £1.30 each or 95p for Old Age Pensioners.

RESOLVED: That approval be given to the Draft Project Integra Annual Action Plan 2008-2013.

50. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ENFORCEMENT POLICY

Note: Councillor Edgar declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item, left the room and took no part in the discussion or voting thereon.

Consideration was given to a report of the Environmental Services Manager which advised Members that on 17 December 2007 the Government published the Regulator's Compliance Code under section 22(1) of the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006. Local authorities were required to approve compliant enforcement policies by April 2008. Delays in publishing the code meant that it would not be possible to consult on the content of the Environmental Health Enforcement Policy in time. Consultation would therefore take place once the new policy was approved and a further report would be made in due course.

Members expressed concern that Council Officers should be subjected to abuse or attack during the course of their duties. It was suggested that the Policy should indicate what action would be taken against those issuing threats of any kind. Members were advised that a generic Enforcement Policy was being brought to the Policy and Organisation Board. This could be amended to include an indication of the action that would be taken against members of the public who threaten Enforcement Officers.

It was also pointed out that the Council kept a list of those people who posed a risk to staff visiting their properties, allowing appropriate arrangements to be made for Enforcement Officers to be accompanied by the Police if trouble was expected during a particular visit.

Members stated that it would have been more appropriate if the consultation period had taken place before they were asked to approve the Policy but they understood that this was due to the delay in the publication of the Regulator's Compliance Code. Provided that a report was brought back to the Board,

should changes need to be made to the Policy as a result of the consultation exercise, they were prepared to agree the Policy as presented.

RESOLVED: That:

- i. the Revised Environmental Health Enforcement Policy be approved;
- ii. the recommendation be referred to the Policy and Organisation Board; and
- iii. a further report be made to the Board at the conclusion of a consultation exercise should this be necessary.

51. LEASE OF LAND AND PAVILION TO BRIDGEMARY BOWLING CLUB

Consideration was given to a report of the Development Services Manager that sought Board approval for the termination and re-grant of a lease of land and buildings in Bridgemary Avenue to Bridgemary Bowling Club on the terms outlined in the report.

In answer to a Member's question, it was confirmed that the revised rent of £4,600 per annum had yet to be agreed with the Club. However, the rent was in line with that paid by Clubs of a similar size and status locally.

Members also expressed the desire to see the Club encourage young players to take part in the sport of bowling.

RESOLVED: That:

- i. the Head of Property Services be authorised to agree terms with Bridgemary Bowling Club to enter into a new lease subject to the Club first obtaining Planning Permission for the erection of a store;
- ii. the Borough Solicitor be authorised to enter into such documentation as is necessary to effect the above decision in consultation with the Head of Property Services; and
- iii. authorisation be sought from the Policy and Organisation Board to this recommendation.

52. CAR PARKING CHARGES

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Solicitor requesting the Board to consider the evidence obtained by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding car parking charges in the Borough.

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee advised that the report did not attempt to make a recommendation to the Board but had endeavoured to gather evidence on the effects of car parking charges in the Borough. Invitations had been extended to residents' and traders' representatives as well as fellow Members to present evidence to the Committee.

The Recommendations of the report were that:-

- full cognisance of the evidential findings of the Committee be taken;
- in considering the existing charging regime or in making any alterations to the existing charging regime in the Borough's car parks, the Board would give full regard to the evidence presented by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as well as the implications to the Borough Council's finances;
- the advice of officers regarding the best utilisation of income streams be noted;
- the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's concern over the lack of parity in charging between short stay car parks in Lee-on-the-Solent be noted; and
- the conclusion of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee that car parking charges were only one of many factors that influence shoppers be noted.

Members debated the contents of the report and the appendices therein and agreed to note their contents.

RESOLVED: That the report of the Borough Solicitor on Car Parking Charges be noted.

The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and concluded at 7.00 pm

CHAIRMAN