

**A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT BOARD
WAS HELD ON 2 MARCH 2009**

The Mayor (Councillor Kimber); Councillors Beavis, Burgess (P), Chegwyn (Chairman) (P), Edgar (P), Mrs Forder, Langdon (P), Murphy (P), Salter (P), Smith (P) and Wright (P).

It was reported that, in accordance with Standing Orders, notice had been received that Councillors Hook and Mrs Salter would replace Councillors Beavis and Mrs Forder respectively for this meeting.

60. APOLOGIES

An apology for inability to attend the meeting was received from The Mayor (Councillor Kimber) and Councillor Beavis and Councillor Mrs Forder.

61. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

62. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meetings of the Board held on 19 January 2009 and 4th February 2009 be approved and signed by the Chairman as true and correct records.

63. DEPUTATIONS

It was reported that no deputations had been received.

64. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No questions had been received from the public.

PART II

65. PROJECT INTEGRA ANNUAL ACTION PLAN 2009-2014

Consideration was given to a report of the Environmental Services Manager which examined the targets set by the Project Integra Business Plan for its Partnership Authorities for 2009-2014. The Report included a risk assessment advising that Local Authorities must adopt the Business Plan should they wish to continue with their membership of the partnership and that adoption of the plan would commit the Local Authority to strive to obtain a 40% recycling rate by 2010.

Clarification was given in answer to a Member's question concerning the 'Blue Haze Transfer Station' and the 'processing of incinerator bottom ash'. Members

were advised that the Blue Haze Transfer Station was situated in Ringwood and that as the landfill facility there was due to close shortly a review would be undertaken on the future of the Transfer Station. In addition Members were advised that previously unincinerable bottom ash could now be used as part of the construction of new roads and that 100000 tonnes had been used in the recent work on the M27.

Members questioned the targets that the business plan had set, highlighting in particular discrepancies in two figures setting the target for the reduction of waste. It was suggested that this would need to be taken to the Project Integra Board for clarification.

It was highlighted that currently only 19% of waste disposed of was domestic. Members questioned this as currently no service was provided by the Local Authority for the disposal of commercial waste. Concerns were raised as to the intentions of Project Integra and the Local Authority in addressing this large proportion of the waste. Members were advised that a scheme for the collection of waste from commercial properties was currently in its infancy at Eastleigh Borough Council. It was also recognised that there were high costs currently imposed on small to medium sized enterprises for the disposal of their waste and that the situation was currently under investigation.

Members questioned whether provisions were being made to meet the target of a 40% recycling rate by 2010. They were advised that there were still a number of multi-occupancy properties to come on-line to current waste disposal methods. In addition to this Members were advised that there were a number of issues hindering the process of bringing multi occupancy properties online including the rerouting of collection rounds and the capacity of communal bins. The most significant issue however was the storage of communal bins in existing properties.

Currently work is taking place with residents of the Borough to address contamination issues in households. Visits had been made providing advice and literature in schools and supermarkets.

It was acknowledged that despite efforts made it was unlikely that the 40% recycling target would be reached. It was recognised that existing waste contracts would need to be reviewed to identify potential to improve recycling including kerbside glass and textile recycling. Local Authorities currently recycling glass and textiles were benefiting from increased rates of recycling.

Members suggested that targets should be drawn up by officers to reflect what was realistically possible for the Borough to achieve.

RESOLVED: That the Project Integra Draft Annual Action Plan 2009-2014 be approved.

66. USE OF DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS AT FORTON RECREATION GROUND, GROVE ROAD RECREATION GROUND, LEE – ON – THE –SOLENT RECREATION GROUND, WALPOLE PARK AND PRIVETT PARK

Consideration was given to a report of the Leisure and Cultural Services Manager which sought the Board's approval for the use of Developer Contributions for the provision of a range of improvements to Forton, Grove Road and Lee-on-the-Solent Recreation Grounds, Walpole and Privett Park.

Members welcomed the provision to include extra lighting facilities in these areas as it was hoped these would provide better security and extended access for those using them.

Clarification was sought as to the extent of the range of improvements and whether the finance for the work would come from individual Ward funds or a central funding source. It was confirmed that the only improvements would be to lighting in the areas and that finance would come from a central fund allocated to developing and improving facilities.

Members expressed concern that the plans for the proposed improvements had not been made available prior to the meeting and questioned the specification of the works to be undertaken. The work to be undertaken would be to a standard specification with lights being 35 metres in distance from each other.

Members were advised that consultation had been undertaken with the Community Safety Partnership as to which areas were priorities for improvement. It was noted that funding may be available from an additional source for some areas and, as a result, they had not been included in the plan for improvements. Ward Councillors had also been consulted.

Members expressed concern that the Youth Council had not been consulted in the process of planning the work as it was felt that young people may significantly benefit from the improvements being undertaken. The importance of liaison with the Youth Council was reiterated as it was hoped it would promote ownership and responsibility by young people which could in turn lead to a reduction in vandalism. Thanks were expressed to the Community Safety Officers who had been involved in considerable work with young people throughout the summer and that it was felt that these foundations should be built upon.

Members were pleased to support the work and were keen for it to be promoted to the residents of the Borough.

It was proposed and agreed that the Bridgemaury Park (at Cunningham Drive) area be included for improvement in the planned work. It was confirmed that finance was available for this to take place.

RESOLVED: That:

a) The use of £175000 funding for the following projects be approved:

- 1) Forton Recreation Ground - £15000
- 2) Grove Road Recreation Ground - £18000
- 3) Lee – on – the – Solent Recreation Ground £42000
- 4) Walpole Park - £55000
- 5) Privett Park - £45000; and

b) Bridgemary Park (at Cunningham Drive) area be included for similar improvements.

67. PENTANQUE PITCHES AT STOKES BAY

Consideration was given to a report of the Leisure and Cultural Services Manager which sought approval for the construction of Petanque pitches with a small refreshment area, and the use of £20000 in developer contributions to finance the project. It was hoped that the project could be completed in time for the forthcoming twinning celebrations.

The details of the lease for the pitches and the arrangements for running the facility were discussed. Concern was expressed as to whether the Council or the Pebble Beach Café would be responsible for providing Public Liability Insurance for the area and the equipment hired out.

There were a number of questions concerning the hire of the facility to members of the public, whether there would be a time restriction on the hire of the facility and whether the public could use their own equipment. It was hoped that the Pebble Beach Café would be able to manage the facility.

Members questioned whether there would be a financial return for the Council, and it was felt that a percentage of the profits could be negotiated as part of the lease of the facility.

The Head of Legal Services advised that the lease for the new facility would run concurrently with the lease for the existing facility.

Members agreed that the project should go ahead but a request was made for a briefing note from the Director of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts, to include further details of how the Pebble Beach Café would manage the facility and the percentage of the profits to which the Council would be entitled.

RESOLVED: That:

a) The use of £20000 developer's contribution to construct the facility be approved; and

b) A briefing note providing details of the management of the facility and lease agreement for the facility be prepared and presented to Group Leaders by the Director of Economic Development, Tourism and the Arts.

68. NOISE MONITORING WORKING GROUP

Consideration was given to a report of the Noise Monitoring Working Group following its investigations into the possible requirement for an 'out of hours noise monitoring service'.

Members discussed the existing level of complaints to the Local Authority and it was felt that the Police were usually called by the public when a complaint was made. It was recognised that noise complaints were low priority to the police as there were often large numbers of higher priority calls.

Members expressed their thanks to the Environmental Health Section for their attendance and monitoring of incidents of excessive noise and for the high standard to which these situations were managed.

It was acknowledged that there was no funding available for the implementation of an out of hours service and that to approve the recommendation at this stage would not be an effective use of resources.

Members requested that the situation be re-examined should the need arise.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) The report be noted;
- b) The Noise Monitoring Working Group be thanked for the work they had undertaken; and
- c) The situation be re-examined should the need for an out of hours service become more evident.

69. CYCLE LANES WORKING GROUP

Consideration was given to a report of the Cycle Lanes Working Group investigating the improvements that could be made to the cycle lane network in the Borough.

Members expressed thanks to the Working Group for the high quality of its report.

It was recognised that the terrain of the Borough was ideal for cycling and that this should be utilised to its full potential.

It was advised that an agreement had been reached to allow cyclists to use the

proposed Bus Rapid Transport route to Fareham, should the scheme progress.

Members agreed that, in line with the recommendation, Gosport Borough Council needed to engage with Hampshire County Council to ensure that ways to fund improvements continued to be explored through the Hampshire Action Team Forum and through the Hampshire County Council Area Director for Transport.

The importance of ensuring existing cycle lane facilities were maintained was reinforced along with a need to examine other schemes to help improve traffic flow issues in Gosport.

It was clarified that in recommendation (f) of the report, 'The Chairman' was a reference to the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED: That the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Cycle Lane working group be approved as follows:

- a) The Council engage with Hampshire County Council (HCC) on the issue of funding for, and promotion of, the cycle lane network in Gosport Borough via the HCC Area Director for Transport and the Hampshire Action Team Forum;
- b) The Council, via the Community and Environment Board, include the 5 schemes set out in Paragraph 4.1.1 of the report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (attached as Appendix A) as priorities for improvements and to request for them to be included in the next Local Transport Plan;
- c) The Council write to the Area Manager of Hampshire Highways regarding the problems with the inspection regime and standards of shrub clearance;
- d) Gosport Transport and Sustainability Partnership (GTSP) continue to lead on promoting cycling and the production of promotional material, maps and secure cycle parking; GBC will support GTSP in this role;
- e) Improvements be made to the website as suggested in the report, consistent with the initiatives of the GTSP; and
- f) The Chairman make arrangements to send copies of the report to the County Director of Environment and the relevant County Council Executive Member.

70. APPLICATIONS FOR EVENTS TO BE HELD ON COUNCIL LAND

By reason of special circumstances, the Chairman determined that this item be considered at this meeting notwithstanding the fact that it had not been

available for public inspection in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1985.

The special circumstances were created as many of the events were planned to take place between this Board meeting and the next scheduled meeting on June 15th 2009. Organisers would require confirmation of approval in sufficient time to allow their planning and arrangements to proceed.

Members were presented with a list of applications to hold events on Council land.

The Chairman reinforced that all event applications would come to this Board for approval, including those events to be run by Gosport Borough Council.

It was requested that an application from the organisers of the forthcoming Circus Tent Event, be approved in principle at this meeting pending receipt of the completed application. It was advised that when the completed application was received the relevant information be sent to Group Leaders and that, should any issues arise, then an Extraordinary Community and Environment Board meeting would be called.

RESOLVED: That

a) The following applications to hold events on Council land, with hiring fees and charges (including deposits) being in line with the fees and charges schedule agreed by the Council at its recent budget meeting, be approved.

- 1) BMX Race Day, 15th March, Gosport BMX Club
- 2) Gosport Passport Scheme, 7th April, GBC Community Safety
- 3) Gosport Passport Scheme, 8th April, GBC Community Safety
- 4) Gosport Passport Scheme, 17th April, GBC Community Safety
- 5) St George's Day Parade, 26th April, Gosport District Scouts
- 6) Life Boat and Blue Light Services Day, 4th May, GAFIRS
- 7) Gosport Passport Scheme, 27th May, GBC Community Safety
- 8) Gosport's Big Day Out, 14th June, GBC Economic Prosperity; and

b) An application for forthcoming Circus Tents Events be approved in principle with details of the application forwarded to Group Leaders on receipt.

The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and concluded at 7.20 pm

CHAIRMAN