

**A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT BOARD
WAS HELD ON 15 JUNE 2009**

The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Searle) (P); Chairman of the Policy and Organisation Board (Councillor Hook) (ex-officio); Councillors Beavis (P), Bradley (P), Burgess (Chairman) (P), Cully, Edgar (P), Mrs Forder (P), Forder (P), Kimber (P), Murphy (P) and Wright (P).

It was reported that, in accordance with Standing Orders, notice had been received that the Mayor (Councillor Mrs Searle) would replace Councillor Cully for this meeting.

7. APOLOGIES

An apology for inability to attend the meeting was received from Councillor Cully

8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

9. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meetings of the Board held on 2 March 2009 and 14 May 2009 be approved and signed by the Chairman as true and correct records.

10. DEPUTATIONS

No deputations had been received.

11. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No questions had been received from the public.

PART II

12. PRESENTATION – ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

A presentation 'Adapting to Climate Change' was given by the Environmental Services Manager (attached in the minute book appendix A).

Members appreciated that the presentation was particularly relevant to Gosport as a peninsula due to the projected rise in sea levels.

Members were advised that the Council was represented on a number of Local Government Association special interest groups on coastal issues and had close links to the Havant and Portsmouth Coastal Partnership.

It was requested that a report previously presented to the Community and Environment Board identifying areas of the Borough at risk from flooding, be re-examined for any increase in the level of risk.

RESOLVED: That the findings of reports presented to Community and Environment Board on 1 November 2004 and 10 January 2005 be re-examined.

13. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (COMMERCIAL) SERVICE PLAN REVIEW 2009/2010

Consideration was given to a report of the Environmental Health Manager which sought approval of the Environmental Health (Commercial) Service Plan Review 2009/2010.

Members were advised that both the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and the Health and Safety Executive required their enforcing Authorities to produce an Annual Service Plan to be approved by Members.

Clarification was sought as to the definition of 'Risk Categories' in paragraph 4.3.7 of the report. It was advised that National Risk Categories were defined by the FSA and each premises was categorised as a result of an inspection. The category of the premises would then determine how frequently subsequent inspections took place.

Members queried the definition of 'Food Alerts' as detailed in 4.7.6. and were advised that they were issued to enforcing authorities in the event of a recall and subsequent withdrawal of a product from sale. It was advised that no action needed to be taken by the enforcing authorities as a result of the alert in the majority of cases which were for issued for information purposes but that occasionally Environmental Health staff were required to contact businesses for action.

Members expressed thanks to Officers for the report.

It was proposed and agreed that Council be requested to nominate Councillor Edgar for the role of Health Spokesman and that Councillor Allen be nominated for the role of deputy.

RESOLVED: That:

a) the Environmental Health (Commercial) Service Plan Review 2009/2010 be approved; and

b) Council be requested to nominate Councillor Edgar for the role of Gosport Borough Council's Health Spokesperson with Councillor Allen as deputy.

14. LEESLAND AND TUKES AVENUE ALLOTMENTS PROVISION OF CAR PARKING AND PERIMETER RAILINGS

Consideration was given to a report of the Leisure and Cultural Services Manager which sought approval for the provision of additional car parking facilities at Leesland Allotments and perimeter railings at Tukes Avenue Allotments, and the use of £10000 in funding received from the sale of land at Camden Allotments to finance the project.

Members supported the improvements to the parking facilities at Leesland Allotment.

It was requested that the improvements to the fencing at the Tukes Avenue Allotments be reconsidered and that close-boarded fencing be used rather than open fencing.

The Board were advised that open fencing could lead to bricks being thrown into the allotments damaging the plots and produce.

Members queried as to why there seemed to be a large number of plots unavailable when waiting lists were so large. The Board were advised that some of the plots were unavailable due to badgers' setts occupying them and others were unavailable as a result of extensive growth of brambles. The cost of removing the brambles exceeded the funds available for the maintenance of sites.

The Board were advised that the waiting list was frequently updated and was available to view on the Gosport Borough Council Website.

It was hoped that the figure for allotment plots not available could be removed from the waiting list to indicate more clearly the number of plots available.

RESOLVED: That:

- a) improvements to the parking facilities, as contained in the Leisure and Cultural Services Manager's Report, at Leesland Allotments be approved, and
- b) investigations be made into providing close-boarded fencing for the Tukes Avenue Allotment site.

15. WALPOLE PARK COCKLE POND - PERIMETER PATHWAY RECONSTRUCTION

Consideration was given to a report of the Leisure and Cultural Services Manager which sought approval for the required reconstruction of the existing perimeter concrete pathways surrounding the Cocklepond at Walpole Park and

the use of £80,000 in developer's contributions in conjunction with £80,000 local capital funding resources to finance the reconstruction.

RESOLVED: That the sum of £80,000 developer contributions in conjunction with £80,000 local capital funding resources to fund the Walpole Park Cocklepond perimeter pathway reconstruction be approved.

16. USE OF DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF PLAY AREA FACILITIES

Consideration was given to a report of the Leisure and Cultural Services Manager which sought approval for the use of £18,000 Developer Contributions for proposed improvements to:

- Walpole Park Skate Park
- Pirates Cove Play Area

and the use of £35,000 local capital funding resources for proposed improvements to :

- Privett Park Play Area

Members welcomed the improvements to the play areas and that Privett Park was to be included in the works.

It was advised that the tennis courts at Privett Park were also scheduled for improvement within the current year.

Members reiterated the importance of the Privett Park facility and it was hoped that funding options could be explored to allow the replacement of the changing facilities on the site.

RESOLVED: That approval be given for:

- a) the use of £18,000 in Developer Contributions to be used for Walpole Park Skate Park and Pirates Cove Play Area; and
- b) the use of £35,000 local capital funding resources to be used for improvements to Privett Park Play Area.

17. EVENTS ON COUNCIL LEISURE LAND IN GOSPORT AND LEE-ON-THE-SOLENT

Members queried that Gosport charities and community groups, as well as Gosport Borough Council were currently being charged to use Council Leisure Land for events.

Members felt that the fees were discouraging to those wanting to hold events on Council Leisure Land and that it could reduce the number of spectator attracting events run in the Borough.

It was also noted that a large number of charities relied on holding these events for fundraising and that the current charges made this a harder task.

It was proposed that the fees be abolished for events held by charities and community groups and that the organisers of such events held since May 2009 be refunded the hire fee.

A Member advised that he had visited some of the attractions at Gosport's Big Day Out and was keen for the Community and Environment Board to be involved.

The event had been started by Gosport Partnership to encourage residents of Gosport to use and enjoy facilities local to them. The Economic Prosperity and Development team were responsible for staffing and coordinating the event.

Members requested that thanks be passed to those involved in organising the event and that a report be presented to the Community and Environment Board following the wash up meeting for this year's event.

RESOLVED: That

a) The following applications to hold events on Council land be approved:

- 1) Lee-on-the-Solent Promenade Charity Walk, 5th July, Limes Downe Petanque Club
- 2) Elson Recreation Ground Fun Fair Style Day, 27th July, GBC Community Safety
- 3) Elson Recreation Ground Fun Day, 28th July, GBC Community Safety
- 4) Elson Recreation Ground Fun Day, 29th July, GBC Community Safety
- 5) Privett Park Fun Day, 30th July, GBC Community Safety
- 6) BMX Track, Grange Road, BMX Fun Day, 31st July, GBC Community Safety
- 7) Stokes Bay Open Space, Friends of Stoke Bay Open Day, 1st August, Friends of Stokes Bay
- 8) Grove Road Recreation Ground Fun Day, 3 August, GBC Community Safety
- 9) Grove Road Recreation Ground Fun Day, 4 August, GBC Community Safety
- 10) Leesland Park BMX Fun Day, 5 August, GBC Community Safety,
- 11) Leesland Park Fun Day, 6 August, GBC Community Safety

- 12) Holbrook Recreation Ground Fun Day, 10th August, GBC Community Safety
- 13) Holbrook Recreation Ground Fun Day, 11th August, GBC Community Safety
- 14) Gosport Park Fun Day, 13th August, GBC Community Safety
- 15) Stokes Bay Beach Party, 14th August, GBC Community Safety
- 16) Walpole Park, Youth Festival, 22nd August, GBC
- 17) Alverstoke Michaelmas Fayre, 26th September, Mr A Edgar;

- b) fees be waived for any application for use of Council Leisure Land for an event to be run by a Gosport charity or community group;
- c) a refund be made to all Gosport charity and community groups charged for use of Council Leisure Land for events since May 2009; and
- d) a report be presented to the Community and Environment Board following the wash up meeting for Gosport's Big Day Out.

18. PETITION – REROUTING OF REFUSE COLLECTION RICHARD GROVE, CEDAR CLOSE AND FRATER LANE

Note: Councillor Ms Ballard requested and was granted permission to address the Board following the receipt of the above petition.

Councillor Ballard addressed the Board on behalf of the residents of Richard Grove, Cedar Close and Frater Lane.

A petition had been received and presented to the Environmental Services Manager with regard to a recent change in the collection point of domestic waste and recycling bins from the rear of properties to the front.

The Board was advised that the residents now had to walk their bins at least 100 metres to the front of their properties, the two other alternatives being to store their bins in their front gardens or take them through their houses.

Councillor Ms Ballard advised that she had spoken to the Environmental Services Unit and it had been agreed that the change to collection would be suspended pending consultation with residents; this had subsequently been over ruled.

Residents were concerned about the change as it was reported that the rear access way was wider than the highway.

It was requested that Members agree to postpone the change in collection point until consultation with residents had taken place.

Members were advised that the policy was now to collect from the fronts of the

properties. Collections from the rear of the properties had been observed by Officers and were considered to be unsafe.

The Chairman advised the Board that as this item did not appear on the agenda of the meeting, it could not be debated.

The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and concluded at 7.20 pm

CHAIRMAN