

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT & REGENERATION
DEVELOPMENT & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Date: Tuesday 19 March 2013

Time: 18.00 hrs.

Place: Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Stevenage SG1 1HN

Present: Councillors: V Warwick (Chair), M Notley, J Hollywell, G Snell and B Underwood.

Start/End Time Start Time: 6.00 p.m.
Ended: 6.45 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Pickersgill and S Walker.

There were no declarations of interest.

2. MINUTES – 7 JANUARY 2013

In reply to a question the Scrutiny Officer undertook to circulate the response from the Portfolio Holder to the recommendations raised by the committee as a result of the scrutiny review into Environmental Campaigns and Fixed Penalty Notices.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Resources Development and Scrutiny Committee held on 7 January 2013 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. 2013/2014 SCRUTINY WORKPLAN

The Committee had before it an Officer report detailing the following items for consideration as review topics for 2013/2014:

- Bin collections during and after adverse weather conditions
- Car Park Charges / Bands and the operation of all car parks
- Communication with the public on environmental issues
- Refuse and Recycling
- Parking on grass verges
- Tree Management Policy.

Rather than conduct a scrutiny review into bin collections during and after snow or other adverse weather conditions the Committee requested that updates be supplied to the

Committee in the event of disruption to services.

In reply to a question the Officer advised the Committee that questions relating to the success of the 'free days' promoted in some of the Borough's car parks could be reported outside of the meeting and that a 'question and answer' document could be prepared for Members.

Other suggestions were discussed and then rejected as either being too wide ranging or as having been extensively covered in other forums and there was a consensus in the meeting that Refuse and Recycling, with an emphasis on missed bin collections and the provision of new or replacement bins, should be the subject of the review.

The Scrutiny Officer confirmed that reviews into the following reports previously considered by the Committee would be scheduled into the workplan for 2013/2014:

- Cleanliness of the Neighbourhood Centre Shops (from 2010/2011)
- Use of Garage Compounds for alternative parking (from 2011/2012)
- Fixed Penalty Notices and Environmental Campaigns – Dog Fouling (from 2012/2013)

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. That feedback from the Scrutiny Evaluation Questionnaire completed by Members be noted.
2. That having taken account of previous suggestions made by the Committee, ideas put forward by Members and topics raised at the Scrutiny Workshop event held on February 2013, the Committee determined the subject matter of its Scrutiny Study for 2013/2014 to be a review into the Council's refuse and recycling operation with emphasis being placed on missed bin collections and the provision of new or replacement bins.
3. That the monitoring and review of recommendations from previous studies be included in the workplan.
4. That the Policy Development and Budget and Policy Framework reviews identified for the Committee as set out at paragraph 7.1 be noted.
5. That proposals regarding Equalities and Diversity in the Scrutiny function as set out at paragraph 3.9 be noted and used in any future studies as appropriate.

4. URGENT BUSINESS

None.

CHAIR