

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY SELECT COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Date: Wednesday 9 July 2014

Time: 6.00 p.m.

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

Present: Councillors: J Hollywell (Chair), D Bainbridge, L Bell, L Briscoe
J Brown, E Connolly, G Snell and P Stuart.

Start/End Time: Start Time: 18.00 hrs.
Ended: 19.45 hrs.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors P Bibby and C Saunders.

There were no declarations of interest.

2. MINUTES – 18 JUNE 2014

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment & Economy Select Committee held on 18 June 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. PRESENTATION – TREE AND HEDGE REVIEW

The Committee received a presentation from Lee Myers, Head of Environmental Services, Cristian Pinta, Arboriculture and Conservation Manager, Paul Seaby, Streetscene Manager and Julia Hill, Green Spaces Policy and Development Manager.

Issues around the Management and Maintenance of Trees, Shrub Beds and Hedges and the role of Green Space Volunteers within the Town were discussed.

A suggestion on whether the recruitment of volunteers could be extended to young people who might be interested in outdoor work through liaising with the Department of Works and Pensions was noted.

In response to a question on prioritising activities undertaken by volunteers, the Officer informed Members that volunteers complement works by SBC staff and were not replacing SBC grounds men.

In response to a question on how works were allocated, Members were informed that SBC had a Bio-Diversity Action plan and most of the tasks undertaken were updated regularly.

Members welcomed the possibility of pulling together of the various volunteer groups in different areas of the Council so that a common policy around volunteering could be developed.

The Chair thanked Officers for their presentation.

4. SCOPING DOCUMENT – TREE AND HEDGE REVIEW

Members were invited to consider the scoping document.

The following Members agreed to lead on the following issues:

- Volunteering – Councillor D Bainbridge
- Trees and Hedges including Biodiversity issues & choices of species - Councillors J Brown and D Bainbridge
- Land Ownership – Councillor P Bibby
- Shrubs and Beds – Councillor P Stuart
- Parks – Councillor L Bell
- Equalities and Diversity issues – Councillor J Hollywell

Members welcomed a site visit to be arranged by Officers during the summer.

The Chair requested that Members have an informal meeting after the site visit to be facilitated by the Scrutiny Officer to draw together research and agree questions.

5. URGENT PART I BUSINESS

None

6. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Not required.

7. URGENT PART II BUSINESS

None.

CHAIR