

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMY SELECT COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Date: Tuesday 7 October 2014

Time: 6.00 p.m.

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

Present: Councillors: J Hollywell, D Bainbridge, L Bell, L Briscoe, J Brown, G Snell and P Stuart.

Start/End Time: Start Time: 18.00 hrs.
Ended: 19.15 hrs.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

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

There were no declarations of interests.

2. MINUTES – 22 SEPTEMBER 2014

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Environment & Economy Select Committee held on 22 September 2014 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to amending recommendation 5 Item 3-Green Travel Plan, replacing 'travel plans' with 'use of liftshare'.

3. SCRUTINY REVIEW OF THE MAINTENANCE OF TREES, HEDGES AND SHRUB BEDS

A document listing the potential questions for the witness attending the review meeting on 21 October was tabled and considered by the Committee. Members were advised that this was not an exhaustive list and that Members were still able submit any further questions to the Scrutiny Officer who would circulate them.

The questions were discussed and the Scrutiny Officer agreed to amend the questions and circulate these for comments prior to directing them to Officers and witnesses ahead of the meeting on 21 October 2014.

In response to a question on which authority was responsible for the upkeep of unkempt

gardens around Sheltered Homes, the Scrutiny Officer indicated that this issue would be put to Officers.

A Member expressed concerns about safety in public parks especially the children's play areas as she had noticed broken glass and litter and enquired how often were they checked.

A Member enquired whether Officers had considered seeking funding sources with regards to Biodiversity issues. The Scrutiny Officer indicated that he would forward the enquiry to the relevant officer in the Council.

Members noted the questions that had been listed and asked that the following areas also be addressed :

- Types and location of species
- Equalities and Diversity issues regarding roots coming through pavements
- Specific questions for the Portfolio Holder regarding cuts in service and more publicity for volunteers
- Whether volunteers were able to help elderly/disabled residents maintain gardens

It was **RESOLVED** that the questions be revised as discussed and be circulated to witnesses and Officers prior to the Committee meeting on 21 October 2014.

5. URGENT PART I BUSINESS

None

6. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Not required.

7. URGENT PART II BUSINESS

None.

CHAIR