

**LARGER PRINT COPY AVAILABLE  
PLEASE TELEPHONE: 01493 846325**

**ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM**

**12 June 2007 – 10.00 am**

**PRESENT:**

Representing Norfolk County Council:  
Councillor Wainwright

Representing GYB Services:  
B Harris

Representing Broads Authority:  
N Sanderson

Representing PCT:  
L Blizzard

Representing Great Yarmouth Borough Council:  
Councillor Shrimplin, R Cole, N Darwish, B Harris, J Hemsworth,  
T Howard, S Mutten, M Smith and K Edmonds

Representing Norfolk Wildlife Fund:  
P Page

Representing Britain in Bloom:  
S Hacon

Representing Great Yarmouth Local Strategic Partnership:  
T Leonard

Representing Great Yarmouth Wildfowlers Association:  
M Pearson

Representing Disability Forum:  
L Seward

Representing Norfolk Constabulary:  
D Gladden

Representing Community Connections:  
T Aydin

Representing Friends of the Earth:  
G Harrison

## **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from L Poulson and M Brackenbury.

## **2. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2007 were confirmed.

## **3. MATTERS ARISING**

### **(a) Membership**

Lynn Blizzard asked if the Forum would consider the PCT becoming a voting member. Clarification was sought on the two Great Yarmouth Borough Council voting places on the Forum and Trish Aydin asked that the GY People be asked who their two representations would be on the Forum.

## **4. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK INDICATOR UPDATE**

The Environmental Policy Manager tabled a document detailing the six indicators that the Forum had adopted along with the performance levels achieved and the target levels required.

### **(a) Transport**

It was reported that the Forum adopted the transport indicator two meetings ago and that the scheme had not formally been launched yet

but that 250 catering properties of the Borough's 1700 had already joined the scheme.

**(b) Waste Management**

It was reported that the DEFRA level was set at 20% and so this target had already been exceeded.

**(c) Built Environment**

It was reported that Criminal Damage in the Borough had increased and this was over target.

**(d) BV199a (litter)**

It was reported that the national target had been achieved. Although levels of litter had decreased from the previous year, an increase in detritus brought down performance on the combined BV199a score.

**(e) Natural Environment**

It was reported that one out of the six beaches in the Borough currently has the Blue Flag Status.

**(f) Energy and Resources**

The Forum were informed that this target was still to be confirmed by DEFRA, but performance had again achieved the target of 1000 tonnes per annum of CO<sup>2</sup> diverted from atmospheric emission.

Members discussed current schemes being arranged or run such as the Sticks and Stones project run by Norfolk Constabulary to reduce Criminal Damage.

The Forum were asked to vote on amending the performance indicator for Criminal Damage in the Borough from street furniture only to Criminal Damage in general. Members voted in favour of amending this indicator. The Forum was then asked to confirm the figure of 15,000 tonnes for the Energy and Resources indicator.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the Forum agreed to adopt Criminal Damage in general across the Borough for the Built Environment Indicator.

(ii) That the Forum agreed to the figure of 15,000 tonnes for the Energy and Resources Indicator.

## **5. FUTURE OUTLOOK FOR BOROUGH'S RECYCLING PERFORMANCE**

The Waste and Recycling Officer outlined a recent DEFRA paper stating that the Government had set a target across the country for recycling as 40% which would then increase to 45% in 2015 and 50% in 2020.

It was reported that children were being educated in reducing, recycling and re-using.

The Forum were informed that last year 25.8% of waste was recycled and that the DEFRA target for next year would be 20%.

The Forum were informed that Broadland and Breckland District Council's figures for recycling were high due to them having a kerb side collection for compostable items. This year a waste data flow system would be used to measure the figures of waste and recyclable waste. Members were informed that next year DEFRA would allow home compost bin waste to be included in the figures.

It was reported that communal bins were now rolling out in the Middlegate area in order to finish off the roll out of wheeled bins in the Borough.

The Waste and Recycling Officer detailed the WRAP Scheme which is a scheme aimed at advertising and educating residents in the Borough on the kerb side collection scheme. Members were informed that some of the leaflets distributed would be in the five main languages used in the Borough.

It was noted that glass could not be placed in the recyclable bins in the current scheme and that on the leaflets distributed it urges residents to take their glass to glass recycling banks. It was noted that since the introduction of the wheeled bin scheme glass disposed in the 62 bottle banks in the Borough had tripled.

## 6. **BRITAIN IN BLOOM**

Sue Hacon the co-ordinator for Great Yarmouth Borough's annual Anglia and Britain in Bloom applications gave a brief overview of the initiatives provided. Members were informed that 120 businesses in the Borough sponsor a hanging basket around the town and that this covers the cost of the basket and the watering.

It was reported that by working with the Housing Department at the Council various Communities were being encouraged to carry out gardening projects.

The Forum were informed that the judges would judge the whole area that they see and therefore it was felt that Great Yarmouth and Gorleston should be shown separately to ensure the routes are easier to manage in conjunction with GYB Services.

Members were informed that the judges would be visiting Great Yarmouth on Wednesday, 11 July 2007 and Gorleston on Wednesday, 23 July 2007, and that the winners of each of the categories would be placed into the Britain in Bloom competition.

## 7. **ENFORCING CRIME**

The Crime Reduction Manager reported on the under spend of NRF and second homes tax stating that mobile covert cameras had been purchased which would be used to monitor and gain evidence in order to increase prosecutions.

Concern was expressed with no communal bins being provided on George Street and Members were informed that this was being looked into.

The Forum were informed that enforcement action is taken by the Council or Rangers as a last resort and that education is used in the first instance. The Waste Communications Officer would also assist in the education and liaison with residents in the Borough.

## **8. UPDATE FROM THE CLEANER, SAFER, GREENER PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

The Environment Service Manager informed the Forum that work would commence in the park on 23 July and that once this work was completed work would start in October on Trafalgar Road. Adverts would be placed in the local press informing the public of the work to be carried out.

## **9. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE LSP STRUCTURE**

The Local Strategic Officer (LSP) informed Members of the proposed amendments to the LSP structure. Members were informed that the other Forums had considered the proposed changes and had requested to continue as they currently were until further information on the Local Area Agreement changes were received next year.

### **RESOLVED:**

That the Forum continues as they currently are until further information is received on the Local Area Agreement changes.

## **10. SMOKING POLICY**

Lynn Blizzard from the Great Yarmouth & Waveney PCT spoke to the Forum on the new Smoke Free legislation stating that 106,000 people die of smoking related illnesses each year. It was reported that since the introduction in Ireland cigarette sales had dropped by 10.7%. Members expressed concern at the drop in revenue asking what other taxes would increase to recover this loss.

The Transition Manager stated that there was a need to educate residents initially and not prosecute. It was noted that Ireland had suffered detritus issues since the introduction of the Smoke Free legislation and that this would need to be addressed.

A discussion ensued around the extensions that several premises in the Borough were building.

## **11. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Members were informed that the date of the next meeting would be Tuesday, 11 September 2007.

## **12. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

The meeting ended at 12.00 pm.