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**ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM**

**2 December 2008 – 10.00 am**

**PRESENT:**

Representing Norfolk Area Museums:  
J Steward

Representing Great Yarmouth Wildfowlers Association:  
M Pearson (In the Chair)

Representing Great Yarmouth Borough Council:  
K Edmonds, G Hough and M Smith

Representing GY People:  
T Aydin, A Ellison

Representing RSPB:  
M Smart

Representing Norfolk Wildlife Fund:  
P Page

Representing Norfolk Constabulary:  
Pc Pat Bailey

Representing the Great Yarmouth Local Strategic Partnership:  
T Leonard

Representing Community Connections:  
M Llewellyn

Representing Great Yarmouth Borough Council:  
Councillor Shrimplin

Representing GYB Services:  
P Stockwell

## 1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from S Mutten and J Tinsley.

## 2. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2008 were confirmed subject to the amendment that Tim Leonard had tendered his apologies for absence.

## 3. **MATTERS ARISING**

### (a) **Williamson's Lookout**

The Environmental Forum was informed that the container on the land adjacent to Williamson's Lookout had now been removed.

## 4. **STREETSCENE**

Trish Aydin gave a formal presentation on Streetscene stating that this was a Community Empowerment Championing Initiative run from 2006 to 2007 in partnership with Great Yarmouth Borough Council, Community Connections and was funded through the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund. The initiative was run as a pilot project to monitor six of the most deprived wards in the Borough for litter, graffiti, detritus and fly posting. The aim was to report these issues and have them dealt with within 48 hours by GYB Services Limited. The Environmental Forum was informed that the Gershon Report in July 2004 reported that community engagement by Local Authorities in terms of street cleansing and waste collection was often variable and relatively unstructured, although democratic renewal processes were bringing some changes.

The DEFRA publication which swiftly followed the Gershon Report stated that "The quality of the local environment and in particular standards for the street cleansing were increasingly becoming the

barometer that the public use to judge how well an area is being managed and its sustainability as a place to live, work, visit or bring up a family.” Locally the Audit Commission Service Inspection Report published in 2006 said that “Since 2002 there had been significant improvement in Great Yarmouth. Most of the Borough’s streets were now clean and tidy, recycling and aspects of waste minimisation had improved rapidly so too had play areas, parks and open spaces being better maintained.” It also said, however, that “There was more to be done. Resident’s satisfaction had been too low. There were now effective deterrents to help clean up the many fly tip hotspots. Increasingly effective partnership between Great Yarmouth Borough Council and GYB Services gave scope for a more responsive, accessible and effective service. There was strong emphasis on partnership working, community involvement and neighbourhood renewal.”

The Environmental Rangers Team was set up by the Borough Council in 2002. The Team was tasked with customer response, enforcement and education in the field of Environment Health in the public realm across the Borough. The Streetscene Assessors work in pairs so as to be able to give safety cover to the person measuring the transect. One measures while the other Ranger keeps a look out. The target area for this initiative was South, Central and North Yarmouth, Cobholm and Lichfield, Halfway House, Gorleston and Magdalen. The day-to-day Management and promotion of the Team was the responsibility of Community Connections paid staff. Processing and transect records, reporting and production of transects sheets and briefing documents was that of the volunteer administrator. The Team would be given briefing meetings in the Community Centre of the area they were measuring before they started, affording users clipboards and standards BV199 Record Sheets and a box for additional information. Failing transects were reported back to GYB Services DERT Team and a copy of records would be kept by the Environmental Services Team. Residents would report areas that needed to be cleaned up and tenant enquiries were expressed via the Streetscene Team. Councillor Shrimplin asked why Ward Councillors were not being more involved in arranging for rubbish to be removed in their Wards as it was not just down to the Streetscene Team. Overall the public was satisfied with the outcome and impressed with the Partnership working of this initiative and, therefore, were more motivated to become involved. The Streetscene Team and residents were able to engage through

community partnership and groups. They were able to promote the initiative through the CLIPS, generating community interest.

A commercial organisation tasked with helping unemployed youths were able to place three young people within the Streetscene Team. One of them built confidence and went on to find employment as a result. Volunteers meant that the project was able to include people who might not have or would have had little opportunity to engage with the world of work and social inclusion and integration. It brought together members of the community who might not otherwise have come together and enabled them to become confident and feel part of a Team. This was an initiative that was funding support to be delivered across the whole Borough of Great Yarmouth ticking boxes and meeting targets and increasing good perception of public services provided.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Environmental Forum recommended that the Streetscene Scheme be considered for WNF Funding and that the Environmental Forum Facilitator would assist Community Connections prepare a bid for WNF Funding.

## **5. OUTER HARBOUR**

The Forum was informed that this presentation was deferred to a future meeting.

## **6. GREAT YARMOUTH COMMITMENT TO NORFOLK'S LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT- ENVIRONMENT**

The Forum was provided with an update on the Environmental Indicators in Great Yarmouth's Local Area Agreement and this then led to a discussion on the future of the Environmental Forum. It was reported that the Environmental Forum could continue as a Partnership Forum as it currently was or it could look at the commitments that needed to be delivered and then adapt the Forum appropriately.

The Representative from Community Connections stated there was a need to look at both as there was a need to work in partnership and to become a Delivery Group.

It was clarified that the Environmental Forum would still have a recommendation role and would not be a decision making Group. The Area Museums Representative stated that via Norfolk County Council there were several Environmental Groups and so there could be a duplication of work. The LSP Officer stated that each Forum would be renamed Delivery Groups and would not be called Forum's. He stated that the Environmental Forum needed to consider how often it would meet and if the Sub-Groups underneath would carry out any of the tasks that the Environmental Forum currently did.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Environmental Services Department prepares a Briefing Paper on the possible re-organisation of the Environmental Forum which would be distributed to all partners of the Environmental Forum who would then ballot on the action to be taken and would be sent back to the Member Services Officer at Great Yarmouth Borough Council.

## **7. CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY**

The Forum was asked to note the final draft version of the Climate Change Strategy attached to the agenda. It was reported that a Climate Change Task Force was currently in place and was now looking to create a County Level Group.

- **National Indicator 185**

It was reported there was a need to baseline what tasks were currently carried out by Great Yarmouth Borough Council in-house and what was contracted out.

- **National Indicator 186**

Although there is a County-wide partnership dealing with this National Indicator it was reported there was a need to have a local Group to work on this at Borough level.

- **National Indicator 188**

It was reported that this Indicator would not be measured by a statistical figure but would be looked at by Great Yarmouth Borough Council's Actions to Preparing for Climate Change.

It was reported that Great Yarmouth Borough Council was currently at Level 0 and it was looking to achieve Level 1 for 2009 and work towards this had been carried out via the signing of the Nottingham Declaration and so Great Yarmouth Borough Council was on its way to working towards Level 1. The Climate Change Strategy would be launched in February 2009.

The Environmental Forum was informed via the Bio-Diesel Scheme there were now 400-500 commercial properties in Great Yarmouth signed up to the Waste Oil Collection Service and, via Norfolk County Services, discussions had been taking place about all the schools in the Borough having their waste oil collected from the school kitchens. The RSPB Representative stated that by 2012 they were required to reduce their carbon emissions by 10%.

**RESOLVED:**

(i) That the Environmental Forum would be given an update on the Climate Change Strategy Launch at the March 2009 meeting.

(ii) That a Representative from Bunns would be required to attend and give an update on the Bio-Diesel Scheme at the March 2009 meeting.

## **8. LITTLE TERNS**

The RSPB Representative stated that this was the 24th year that the RSPB had been at North Denes Beach and that 165 chicks had fledged this year. It was reported that Long Eared Owls had caused problems this year. 40 volunteers had helped to run the scheme along with four RSPB staff. It was reported that the RSPB was currently working with the Planning Department at Great Yarmouth Borough Council to look at funding in order to manage the site under the Rural Spatial Strategy criteria. It was reported that there were two protection sites which were most at risk and they were identified as the Brecklands and North Denes Little Tern Colony. It was reported that it currently costs the RSPB

£40,000 a year approximately to manage the Little Tern Colony site with £10,000 being provided from Natural England. It was reported that it was now a statutory obligation for Great Yarmouth Borough Council to fund the management of this site. The Forum then spoke of the Section 106 criteria.

## **9. RECYCLING INITIATIVE**

The Environmental Services Officer spoke of the kerbside recycling sacks which were being distributed throughout the Borough for residents who did not have access to wheelie bins. It was reported that this was a six month trial and the contents of the bags would be monitored. It was reported that only 5% of the properties that had received the sacks had rung up Great Yarmouth Borough Council with queries.

## **10. TASKING AND COMMISSIONING GROUP – ENVIROMENTAL SUB-GROUP**

The minutes of the last Environmental Sub-Group meeting were tabled and were noted.

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

It was reported that the date of the next meeting would be Tuesday, 3 March 2009 at 10.00 am.

## **12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **(a) Community Connections**

Community connections asked if it was able to give a presentation on the support it was able to provide for the roll out of the Neighbourhood Management Scheme.

Community Connections reported that it was asking Caister to become a carrier bag-free zone.

**(b) Future Meetings**

The Chairman asked if an agenda item could be included for the next meeting regarding nest boxes in parks and woods via the Great Yarmouth MIND organisation.

**13. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

The meeting ended at 11.55 am.