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ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

2 September 2008 – 10.00 am

PRESENT:

Representing Norfolk Constabulary:
P Bailey

Representing Norfolk Wildlife Fund:
P Page

Representing Great Yarmouth Borough Council:
Councillor Shrimplin

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

Representing Great Yarmouth Borough Council:
S Mutton, M Smith, K Edmonds, P Fox

Representing Great Yarmouth Sport and Leisure Trust:
A Barnes (attended for item 4)

Representing GY People:
A Ellison, T Aydin, M Barnes

Representing Children's Services (GYOT):
Ian French

Representing RSPB:
S Jones

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from L Poulson, J Steward, N Darwish and First Buses.

2. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2008 were confirmed.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

(a) **Little Terns**

It was reported that the figures had increased on last years figures. However, a full update on the little terns would be given at the next meeting.

(b) **Williamson's Lookout**

A member of the Committee pointed out that the adjacent property to Williamson's Lookout had been given permission to put a container on their land which now affected the outlook. Graffiti had also been placed on the seating in the area. The Service Manager for Environment stated that he would check with Property Services on the length of time the container had been allowed to be placed in this area and that removal of the graffiti would be arranged.

(c) **Streetscene**

Trish Aydin reported that the Streetscene consultation was currently in progress.

(d) **Facilitator for the Environmental Forum**

It was reported that Jane Jackson had left her post and that Mark Smith from 1 September would be the new Waste Management Officer and that Mark Smith's job would be advertised in the near future and that a new Environmental Forum Facilitator would in future be facilitated by several staff in the Environmental Services Unit pending filling of vacancies.

Councillor Shrimplin declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in the following item on the grounds that he was a Trustee of the Great Yarmouth Sport and Leisure Trust.

4. SKILLED PLAY WORKER

Adrian Barnes gave the Forum a presentation asking the Forum to consider a proposal from the Great Yarmouth Sport and Leisure Trust relating to the potential cross cutting benefits of skilled play workers. As part of the national agenda for play development an overview of potential funding streams was provided.

Adrian reported that he was employed by the Great Yarmouth Sport and Leisure Trust until October 2010 and that he was offering free, structured play for children within the Borough.

The Forum were asked if they were in agreement should they recommend a play worker scheme to the Council. He reported that play provision needed to be included in the Local Authority Policies and that a play indicator would be implemented. It was reported that the Government was carrying out fair play consultation and the results of this would be published in Autumn 2008. £235m would be spent on children to allow them to take part in outdoor play. It was hoped that the play worker scheme would be for children 0-19 years old for activities carried out outside of school hours at informal places. It was reported that play workers would be there to encourage children to feel free to play.

The key aims of the scheme were to provide:-

- Quality play
- Up skilling the future workforce
- Supporting development of play work and offering a long term plan.

Community play workers would be seen as role models for children and would help to reduce social exclusion. It was reported that this scheme would address 'The Every Child Matters' agenda. It was concluded that play worker schemes were part of Government policy and as a result the Government would provide £235m towards this. It was reported that a national indicator for play was being devised and may feature in a future

revision of the Nation Indicator Set. It was reported that funding streams were currently available via the Big Lottery, Skills Active and the Working Neighbourhood fund. It was pointed out that this scheme would work towards the Comprehensive Area Assessment. After the presentation, members were asked for any questions and a member asked if the Council would have to find funding for this scheme after the initial funding had run out. Adrian stated that the Government would be funding this scheme. It was reported that a recent consultation process had found out that youths within the Borough would like supervised play areas as they feel intimidated by older youths. The Service Manager for Environment stated that Great Yarmouth Borough Council would be receiving capital expenditure for play areas and there was a need to look at the best way the play worker scheme could be used across the Borough.

Trish Aydin stated that creative play and play to learn needed to be investigated in order to teach children how to learn to look after their surroundings. It was reported that national indicator 199 would be likely to include a measurement of the increase in the range of activities available within the Borough and increasing satisfaction levels of users within the Borough.

A member reminded the Forum that volunteer organisations and volunteers could also be used instead of employing staff to carry out these roles. The Service Manager for Environment stated that the play worker scheme would be the facilitator for ensuring that volunteers and volunteer organisations were involved throughout the Borough.

RESOLVED:

That the results of the play worker scheme within the Borough surveys be presented to the Environmental Forum in December.

5. LSP CONSULTATION PAPER

Pam Fox introduced herself to the Forum and reported that the work she had been carrying out on the stock take consultation document was in order for the LSP to move onto its next stage of development in order to strengthening and develop the LSP in order that this could then carry out the sustainable community strategy. It was reported that detailed conversations had been held with various people involved in the LSP and their comments had been included in the document. It was also

reported that there was a need for the LSP to be ready for Local Government Re-organisation.

The Service Manager for Environment expressed concern at the LSP moving towards community based delivery groups stating that this would create more work for facilitation in the service. Pam Fox noted there was a need to be more focused and to ensure that the LSP was working towards the LAA and that the LSP fora were not just planning but they were now delivering. Trish Aydin stated there was a need to engage and involve the community more although she did note that the Environmental Forum currently did do this.

The Service Manager for Environment asked how in practice would the Neighbourhood Management model be rolled out. Pam Fox reported that there would be a cost implication to rolling out the Neighbourhood Management model and a business case was currently being prepared.

6. GREAT YARMOUTH'S COMMITMENT TO NORFOLK'S LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT – ENVIRONMENT

It was reported that the Forum was currently awaiting Norfolk County Council's response and therefore this item was deferred to a future meeting.

7. GREAT YARMOUTH'S SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY (SCS) AND ENVIRONMENTAL DELIVERY PLAN

Pam Fox stated that since she had been employed by Great Yarmouth Borough Council in April 2008, she had found that David Stannard had already completed most of the Sustainable Community Strategy work although this needed to be set out in a different format in order to comply with Government guidelines and legislation.

The Committee were informed that the deadline for comments would be within one week's time in order for the LSP Executive and LSP Board to discuss this at their joint meeting on 25 September 2008. The Service Manager for Environment pointed out that Environmental Services had already submitted their response relating to public service delivery and that this had been included in the document. The Committee were

asked to forward their comments onto Pam Fox at her e-mail address at paf@great-yarmouth.gov.uk.

8. CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY FOR NORFOLK

Members were asked to consider the latest draft of the Norfolk Climate Change Strategy with particular attention to Great Yarmouth's proposed contribution. The Committee were informed that Norfolk County Council, Mott McDonald in partnership with the University for East Anglia had worked together and produced the attached document. It was reported that the second and third drafts of the document would be produced before Christmas. It was reported that Great Yarmouth has the lower CO₂ carbon emission figures than other areas within Norfolk. The Forum were asked if they felt the document was a comprehensive strategy. Members asked for the following items to be added as vulnerability items.

- The sewage system in the Borough not being suitable.
- Poor harvesting due to climate change.
- Lack of education of the use of flood sirens.
- Lack of education of action to be taken when flood sirens are used.
- Emergency procedures that are not robust enough.

The Committee discussed the decision to retain 47 flood sirens within Norfolk for a one year period only stating that in 2011 the BBC analogue signal will be turned off and the sirens will be unable to be used.

9. THE ST GEORGE'S PARKWAY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATE

The Service Manager for Environment reported that St George's Park would be complete once the entrances had been installed and that these should hopefully be installed by the end of October. The Park had been awarded a Green Flag status in 2007-8, that the flag had been raised within the last week and that this award only lasted for one year, before it was necessary to re-apply and demonstrate further improvement. It was reported that Great Yarmouth Borough Council was currently looking at the funding streams available to regenerate Bath Hill Terrace area as part of Phase II of the Green parkway umbrella project. It was

pointed out that other areas in the Borough could potentially reach apply Green Flag standard and apply for the award, and that the Green Pennant scheme may be more appropriate for rural areas. It was reported that Commitments made under PSA8 which feature in Phase I of the Local Area Agreement had now been delivered by reaching Green Flag standard for a park within the Borough. It was noted that the Form would now concentrate on commitments to delivery in Phase II of the LAA.

10. RECYCLING COMMUNICATIONS

In the absence of Geraldine Hough, the Recycling Communications Officer, the Forum were informed of the progress to date with Great Yarmouth's waste and recycling performance and campaigns. It was reported that streets in the Neighbourhood Management area would be trialling the recycling sacks. The Police were currently investigating locks for wheelie bins in order to reduce arson incidents in the Borough.

11. TERNS UPDATE

The RSPB representative reported that there had been 350 nests and 165 chicks had fledged. It was reported that owls had set up territory this year and that high tide had washed out some of the nests in August.

12. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The Forum was informed that the date of the next meeting would be Tuesday, 2 December 2008 at 10.00 am.

13. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 11.55 am.