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ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

6 September 2005 – 10.00 am

PRESENT:

Representing Great Yarmouth Borough Council:
Councillor Shrimplin and Councillor Page; R Cole, J Hemsworth,
R Hodds, S Earl, M Smith and M Barrow

Representing Borough-Wide Churches Forum:
D Nettleship

Representing Great Yarmouth Wildfowlers:
M Pearson

Representing Local Strategic Partnership:
T Leonard

Representing Magdalen Community Association:
A Ellison

Representing RSPB:
M Smart

Representing Norfolk County Council:
M Worden

Representing Great Yarmouth CAB:
L Grey

R Canham and A Rayfield (NPS Property Consultants) attended for item
5.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

In the absence of a nomination from a representative from the private/voluntary/community sector, it was agreed that Councillor Shrimplin would be Chairman for this meeting only.

The Forum agreed that the appointment of a Chairman from the private/voluntary/community sector would be determined at the next meeting.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

That the appointment of a Vice-Chairman be determined at the next meeting.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from J Newman (Town Centre Partnership), S Cordell and A Woods (Port Authority) and M Gouldby (Port Users Association).

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 7 June 2005 were confirmed.

5. PROPOSED INTEGRATED SERVICE CENTRE BUILDING

The Forum considered a presentation from Mr R Canham of NPS Property Consultants with regard to the current plans for the proposed Integrated Services Centre building to be erected at Estcourt Road, Great Yarmouth. The presentation included background information illustrating how the plans for the proposed Integrated Services Centre were taking shape to accommodate all the organisations that would occupy the site which included the Borough Council, County Council and the Primary Care Trust. Mr Canham reported that the main funders of the building would be the Primary Care Trust.

Mr Canham focussed on the environmental features of the building with regard to sustainable operation and the Forum were advised of the following features of the proposed building:-

- A pragmatic view had been taken with regard to the building's use which would be open-plan, spacious, light and flexible in its use and that there would be scope for further development.
- The proposed building would be east/west facing to make use of solar power to include a glazed atrium roof with natural ventilation.
- Heating would be provided by a radiator system linked to a reliability system. Constructing the building in concrete would increase the 'thermal' mass and provide more stable environmental conditions internally.
- There would be large areas of glazing on elevations to provide natural daylight. The southern elevation includes external louvre screens and internal 'light shelves' to reflect natural light into the building.
- The airflow to the building would be controlled by a computerised system although windows could be opened manually.
- There would be 'down/up' lighting systems.
- There would be areas of clear open space provided.

Following the presentation questions were raised with regard to whether other options had been considered for ventilation; concern was expressed over design and the façade of the proposed building; and comments were expressed with regard to what criteria had been used for the environmental design of the building (ie use of certain materials etc).

In response, Mr Canham reported that the design of the building was proposed to use American White Oak which was wood from a sustainable source. He also confirmed that there had been no specific brief from the clients other than it was sustainable. He also made the

point that the building has strong environmental credentials.

The Corporate Director (Environment and Economy) commented that a wider sustainability impact would be a home and mobile working ethos which would be developed through the use of this building. This would result in less desk space being required than for the amount of staff employed and would contribute to reduced traffic and car use, and reduced energy costs. It was also confirmed that a green transport plan was currently being developed with regard to traffic flow to this development.

The Chairman concluded this item by thanking Mr Canham for his presentation.

6. LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 2006-2011

The Environmental Policy Manager reported that a special meeting would be held on Thursday, 24 November when details of the Local Transport Plan 2006-2011 would be discussed.

7. LOCAL AREA AGREEMENTS AND THE SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES FUND

(a) Local Area Agreements

The Forum considered a presentation from the Local Strategic Partnership Officer with regard to Local Area Agreements. Members were advised that these would be agreements with central government to improve the specific outcomes in an area. There would be freedom on how to achieve but the outcome was what matters. The Local Area Agreements would dismantle some ringfencing around some funding streams and the Agreements would be achieved through partnership.

The Local Strategic Partnership Officer reported that included in Local Area Agreements would be the following:-

- Safer and stronger communities

- Children and young people
- Healthier communities and older people
- Economic regeneration

The Local Strategic Partnership Officer reported that sets of outcomes and targets would be negotiated in respect of the Local Area Agreements together with funding streams being identified and agreed. NRF would be built into agreements but still targeted at specific neighbourhood renewal areas. Members were advised that the County Council would be the 'accountable body' for funds included in Local Area Agreements.

The Forum were advised that the advantages of Local Area Agreements would result in a more joined up approach possibly in using funding and would improve partnership working by having to address common outcomes. The disadvantages would require greater effort by Local Strategic Partnerships to secure agreed outcomes and there would be a potential loss of financial control if the accountable body function remains with the County Council.

(b) Safer and Stronger Communities Fund

The Forum considered a presentation by the Local Strategic Partnership Officer with regard to Safer and Stronger Communities Funding and Neighbourhood Renewal Funding.

The Chairman concluded the above item by thanking the Local Strategic Partnership Officer for his presentations.

**8. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK – 2005
BASELINE REPORT**

The Forum agreed to defer consideration of this item to the next meeting.

9. WHEELED BIN ROLLOUT PHASE THREE

The Forum considered the Recycling Officer's tabled report with regard to Phase Three Wheeled Bin Rollout in the Borough. Members were advised that in total 26,907 properties were now in receipt of the wheeled bins and the scheme was returning great dividends in terms of an increased recycling rate and a reduction of waste to landfill. The Recycling Officer also updated Members on the proposed action to provide either a wheeled bin or alternative service for those households currently not covered by the wheeled bin service. The point was made that this Forum needed to support the action taken by the Council so far in respect of this matter.

The Recycling Officer reported that it was proposed to arrange a visit for Members of the Forum to the Costessey Recycling Plant on the 14 October 2005.

RESOLVED:

That the Recycling Officer's report be received.

10. WAR ON FLYTIPPING/CATCH AND CONVICT

The Head of Environment and Health provided Members with a short presentation outlining recent activities focussing on envirocrime issues throughout the Borough. He pointed out that the Borough Council was working closely with the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership on this issue. Action taken through CCTV work and by the Environmental Rangers was also reported.

RESOLVED:

That the position be noted.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL RANGERS' UPDATE

The Forum received the Head of Environment and Health's report with regard to an update on the work carried out since the last meeting by the Environmental Rangers.

12. ACTION PLAN TO REDUCE CRIMINAL DAMAGE 2005/06

The Head of Environment and Health outlined the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership Action Plan to reduce criminal damage to the Borough's street scene. His report provided statistics and analysis and listed the interventions that the Partnership would use to achieve this aim.

RESOLVED:

That the Head of Environment and Health's report be received.

13. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Members were reminded that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday, 6 December 2005 at 10.00 am.

14. LITTLE TERN COLONY

The RSPB representative updated Members on activities involving the Little Tern colony this year.

15. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

The Forum were reminded that at its next meeting Members would need to appoint a Chairman of the Forum from a representative of the private/voluntary/community sector.

16. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 12.05 pm.