

---

**ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**  
**8 October 2009**

---

At a meeting of the ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE held at Bexley Civic Offices, Broadway, Bexleyheath on 8 October 2009 at 7.30pm.

**Present:** Councillors Aileen Beckwith, Chris Brockwell, David Cammish, John Davey (Vice Chairman), John Eastaugh, Sharon Massey, Margaret O'Neill, Joseph Pollard, Ray Sams, James Spencer, Colin Tandy (Chairman), Michael Tarrant and John Wilkinson.

**Also**

**Present:** Councillors Gareth Bacon and Alan Downing

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

(Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Brian Beckwith and Councillor Peter Craske, Cabinet Member for Transport.

**2. SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

(Agenda Item 2)

There were none.

**3. MINUTES**

(Agenda Item 3)

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2009 be agreed as a correct record.

**4. EXCLUSIONS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

(Agenda Item 4)

The following motion was moved and seconded without dissent.

**RESOLVED** – That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the Exempt Appendix to agenda item 16 because consideration of this matter in public would disclose information falling within one or more of the categories of exempt information contained in Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, and, in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

**5. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**

(Agenda Item 5)

Councillor Colin Tandy declared a personal interest in that he is Deputy Chairman of Environment Agency Southern Regional Flood Defence Committee. Councillor Joseph Pollard disclosed a personal interest in matters relating to transport as his employers are 'go-ahead' buses division.

**6. STANDING ORDER 65 (6)**

(Agenda Item 6)

There were no items.

**7. ANNUAL PARKING ENFORCEMENT**

(Agenda Item 7)

Graham Ward, Deputy Director (Customer Services) introduced the report, which outlined the annual parking enforcement statistical and financial information between 1 April 2008 and 31 March 2009. This document is now statutory under the Traffic Management Act which requires enforcement authorities to produce an annual report about their on-street and off-street parking activities. As well as financial information, any other objectives around Civil Parking Enforcement must be included.

Members noted there had been a 13% decrease in the number of parking tickets issued and an increase of 6% on the previous year in the number of parking tickets paid. Members noted the reference to capital expenditure within town centre enhancements referred to in the report and sought further information. Officers undertook to provide this information following the meeting.

**RESOLVED** – That the Committee recommend the report to the Cabinet Member for Transport for consideration.

**8. ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (EMS) BRIEFING**

(Agenda Item 8)

The Committee received a report which outlined adoption of the Environmental Management System (EMS). Members noted that the object of EMS is to improve the Council's own environmental performance and to influence suppliers so that good quality environmental services are delivered for residents. It was also noted that a number of key projects arising from EMS have already improved environmental performance across the borough including road resurfacing and illumination of street signs.

The Chairman commented that this system is extremely useful and clearly showing its benefits.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

**9. CABINET MEMBER'S RESPONSE TO THE TRAFFIC SAFETY SCHEMES SUB-GROUP FINAL REPORT**

(Agenda Item 9)

The Committee considered the Cabinet Member's response to the Traffic Safety Schemes Sub Group final report. The Cabinet Member for Transport had given his apologies for the meeting.

**RESOLVED** – That the response be noted.

**10. BEXLEYHEATH NIGHTVISION STRATEGY SCRUTINY SUB-GROUP – REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

(Agenda Item 10)

The Bexleyheath Nightvision Strategy Scrutiny Sub-Group final report was introduced to the Committee by the Sub-Group Chairman. Members were keen to know if anything had progressed since the sub-group had its final meeting in June 2009. Officers responded that the strategy is a long term vision and dependent upon other factors within the Bexley First programme to progress.

Members supported the recommendations. In relation to the taxi-marshalling scheme it was felt that this was a necessary step forward, particularly for reasons of improving safety for people who wish to travel home independently after dark from Bexleyheath. The Sub-Group Chairman added that the underlying goal of all four recommendations is that the town centre becomes a safe, secure environment.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be supported by the Committee and the additional recommendations, as detailed, be included in the final strategy to be adopted by public cabinet.

- 1) That a dedicated space for street entertainment, for use in both daytime and early evening, be considered as part of future public realm improvements in Bexleyheath.
- 2) That bus stop locations be reviewed in Bexleyheath, and buses be introduced back to the existing Market Place area in the later evening period.
- 3) That options for introducing a Taxi- Marshalling scheme for

Bexleyheath be investigated.

- 4) That a Bexleyheath town centre marketing strategy be drawn up, covering the day and night time economy, that will attract new businesses to the town centre.

## **11. RIVER WALKS UPDATE**

(Agenda Item 11)

The Deputy Director (Highways and Amenities) provided the Committee with an update report on a number of action points relating to the river walks that took place six months ago. Members felt there was a lack of progress and agreed that the report required further feedback from the Environment Agency and Thames Water.

Members noted the schemes progressing to stabilise two riverbanks, at Love Lane allotments and Marlborough Park.

Members addressed the implications of polluted water and asked if there would be any prosecutions. Officers confirmed that these matters were being pursued as it was to the benefit of all that such issues be resolved.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

## **12. PARISH WOOD PARK – UPDATE**

(Agenda Item 12)

The Committee received an update report on the progress made with Parish Wood Park. This outlined the draft plan of the park along with key proposals. Members noted that the access improvements to the park were cited as a major issue by the project team. It was reported that to resolve the issue of access, a land swap has taken place with Our Lady of the Rosary RC Primary and since July 2009 all works are near completion.

Members noted the external funding that was contributing to the current work and next stages of the improvement programme. Each item would be subject to public consultation to ensure local input to the project and was a key criteria of funding from the Mayor of London.

Members expressed concern that the park borders the London Borough of Greenwich and that this particular area is known for fly tipping. Members were informed that fences would go up along the borough boundary and that both the London Borough of Bexley and the London Borough of Greenwich are working closely on this issue.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

**13. FEEDBACK ON REALITY CHECKING VISITS**  
(Agenda Item 13)

The Chairman introduced the report on recent reality checking visits to a selection of Roadside Recycling Sites and Erith Saltings undertaken by Members of the Committee.

Members found the report informative and added that presentation of the roadside recycling sites needed to improve. Members discussed the Pantiles recycling site and felt that this needed to be looked at. The Deputy Director (Highways and Amenities) responded that Officers were aware the Pantiles site needs additional resources.

Officers were requested to continue searching for external funding to protect the Saltings and fossilised forest in accordance with the previously commissioned consultants' report.

**RESOLVED** – That the following recommendations be submitted to the Cabinet Member for Environment for response.

- 1) Seek to improve overall cleanliness of the sites through investigating options for improving the thoroughness and / or frequency of cleaning
- 2) Improve site layout in terms of how banks are laid out on site including demarcation of bank locations to ensure they are returned correctly after emptying
- 3) Where appropriate examine options to screen sites to soften their visual impact
- 4) During routine replacement of damaged banks, take into account the advantages of changing over all the banks with refurbished banks at the same time
- 5) Introduce standardisation of colours and styles of bank where feasible (some banks belong to contractors)
- 6) Implement a comprehensive initial site improvement programme taking advantage of capital budget
- 7) As far as possible implement a rolling programme of site improvements utilising the revenue repair and maintenance budget

**14. WORK PLAN**  
(Agenda Item 14)

The Committee considered and agreed its future work plan.

**RESOLVED** – That

- An Air Pollution and Corporate Energy Sub-Group be established.
- The future work programme for the Committee be agreed, subject to the inclusion of a future visit to the Belvedere Incinerator site.
- The Committee be consulted on three forthcoming executive decisions by

correspondence; Street Lighting Policy Review, Highways Flood Relief Schemes programme 2010/11 and Approval of the Bridge Strengthening and Maintenance Report 2010/11.

**15. QUARTERLY MONITORING STATEMENT**  
(Agenda Item 15)

The Committee considered the Quarterly Monitoring Statements for the period April to June 2009.

The Cabinet Member for Environment highlighted key achievements of the quarter noting the award of contract for street services to Serco Ltd. A recent award ceremony at the Shakespeare Globe Theatre saw Bexley win Best Schools Programme Category. Steve Didsbury collected the award, and he also received a personal Lifetime Achievement Award. Members asked that their congratulations be passed on to Mr Didsbury.

The Cabinet Member for Transport had given apologies for the meeting.

**16. AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR STREET SERVICES**  
(Agenda Item 16)

The Deputy Director (Highways and Amenities) reported the recent decision taken by Public Cabinet to award Serco Ltd the contract for street services. The contract will commence on Monday 2 November 2009.

Members noted that there will be a handover period which will ensure carry over of any resident complaints or any other information from the public that needs following up. The Chairman thanked all officers involved with the negotiation of the new contract.

**RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

*The Committee rose at 8.55 pm*

*Signed*.....

*Chairman* –