

**A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT BOARD
WAS HELD ON 16 JUNE 2008**

The Mayor (Councillor Kimber); Councillors Beavis (P), Burgess (P), Chegwyn (Chairman) (P), Edgar (P), Mrs Forder (P), Langdon (P), Murphy (P), Salter (P), Smith (P) and Wright (P).

The Chairman welcomed new Members to their first meeting of the Board.

5. APOLOGIES

An apology for inability to attend the meeting was received on behalf of The Mayor (Councillor Kimber).

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

7. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meetings of the Board held on 3 March and 15 May 2008 be approved and signed by the Chairman as true and correct records.

8. DEPUTATIONS

It was reported that no deputations had been received.

9. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No questions had been received from the public.

PART II

10. GREEN WASTE SERVICE

Consideration was given to a report of the Environmental Services Manager which informed the Board of a Health and Safety Executive (HSE) inspection of the green waste service provided by Verdant on the Council's behalf and the implications of that inspection.

The Chairman drew Members' attention to paragraph 2.1 of the report which stated that the change to the manning of the current operation would amount to £24,000 which was not in the Council's budget. He also referred to paragraph 2.2 and the options contained therein for the future of the Green Waste Service.

Members asked for confirmation that the terms of the original contract with Verdant were such that the cost of an additional operative would have to be

borne by the Council and not by Verdant. A copy of the contract was not available at the meeting but officers advised that they considered the cost should be borne by the Council. As the letter from the HSE referred to a longer term solution being required, Members considered it important that they have the opportunity to study the terms of the original contract.

Members were reluctant to discontinue the Service and were aware that increasing the cost of the green bags could result in a reduced uptake of the service, thus negating the increase in income that the higher cost of the bags was intended to achieve. If the Service could be increased across the Borough through educational initiatives and other promotional activities, this could generate additional income and make use of the spare capacity created by the need for a second operative to carry out the Service.

It was proposed that a copy of the contract with Verdant be made available to Members and that an Extraordinary Meeting of the Board be arranged at which a report could be presented with detailed costing information, options for the future operation of the Green Waste Service and proposals for promoting the Service. Members also concurred with a suggestion that a representative from Verdant be invited to the Extraordinary Meeting.

RESOLVED: That:

1. A copy of the contract with Verdant for the Green Waste Service be made available to the Leader of the Council and Group Leaders;
2. An Extraordinary Meeting of the Board be organised as soon as possible on a date to be agreed with the Chairman and Vice Chairman; and
3. A representative from Verdant be invited to attend the Extraordinary Meeting.

11. RECYCLING POLICY

Consideration was given to a report of the Environmental Services Manager which advised the Board of the procedure in use to address contamination in recycling bins.

Members were shown samples of the green and red tags referred to in paragraph 2.3 of the report and a sample of an information leaflet on the type of materials it was acceptable to recycle.

Members agreed that it was unfortunate that the Bin Inspectors were regarded with hostility by the public who considered them to be "snoopers". Members felt the Inspectors played an important role in educating the public as to what materials could be placed in recycling bins and what, despite their labelling to the contrary, could not be recycled as it was not economic or practical to do so.

Members were advised that the current recycling rate achieved in the Borough was 26% but the Government target was 27%. However, the target for 2010

was 40% which would not be achieved without educating and encouraging the public to recycle correctly. Contamination was a greater problem in certain areas and it was these areas that required a greater concentration of effort in educating residents. The use of red tags and personal visits by Inspectors had resulted in reduced rates of contamination.

Members were advised that the Government funding for the two Inspectors was for a limited period. One Inspector would be employed until November and one until December. Members were of the opinion that the opening of bins should cease due to the antagonism this caused. They requested information on how best to utilise the Inspectors' time in educating the public in order to increase the recycling rate throughout the Borough and to minimise incidents of contamination. The income from recycling would be reduced if contamination increased as a result of the termination of employment of the Inspectors. There would also be an increase in costs in redirecting loads to the incinerator that had been rejected at the recycling plant.

A further report was requested to go to the Extraordinary Meeting of the Board giving options for increasing recycling rates and for the most efficient use of the Inspectors' time in educating the public in recycling. Officers were also requested to consider appropriate wording for stickers to place on recycling bins detailing the materials that could be sent for recycling, in order to reduce contamination.

RESOLVED: That a further report be presented to the Extraordinary Meeting of the Board detailing the following:

- a. Options for increasing recycling rates;
- b. Efficient use of the Inspectors' time in educating the public in recycling; and
- c. Appropriate wording for a sticker to place on recycling bins detailing the materials that could be sent for recycling.

12. WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE – GRANGE ROAD

Consideration was given to a report of the Development Services Manager seeking approval for extending the area of land currently leased to Hampshire County Council for the purpose of improving safety and traffic management.

RESOLVED: That:

1. the Head of Property Services be authorised to agree Terms as set out in the report of the Development Services Manager;
2. the Borough Solicitor be authorised to enter into such documentation as is necessary to effect the above decision in consultation with the Head of Property Services; and
3. authorisation be sought from the Policy and Organisation Board to proceed with the above recommendations.

**13. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (COMMERCIAL) SERVICE PLAN
REVIEW 2008/2009**

Consideration was given to a report of the Environmental Services Manager requesting the Board to consider the Environmental Health (Commercial) Service Plan for 2008/2009.

Members were advised of certain errors within the Plan:

Paragraph 7.8 – the date should be 2008 and not 2007 as stated.

Paragraph 8.1 – HSC Guidance should read Food Standards Agency Guidance.

Paragraph 10.2.3 – Charter Mark status was renewed in January 2008 and not December 2007 as stated.

In answer to a Member's question, it was confirmed that there was no specific legislation on labelling food in respect of gluten free products and only voluntary guidance was given to food manufacturers by the Food Standards Agency. General food labelling legislation was enforced by Trading Standards which would be the agency to whom incorrect labelling should be reported. Environmental Health Officers were only able to enforce food hygiene legislation in respect of food businesses and refer any labelling issues to Trading Standards. However, with the increase in the number of people suffering food allergies, it was anticipated that legislation may be enacted in the future in respect of food labelling for the presence of food allergens.

RESOLVED: That approval be given to the Environmental Health (Commercial) Service Plan for 2008/2009.

**14. TRANSFER OF PLAY AREA AT THE DAEDALUS ESTATE, LEE-ON-
THE-SOLENT FROM TAYLOR WIMPEY TO GOSPORT BOROUGH
COUNCIL**

Consideration was given to a report of the Leisure and Cultural Services Manager which sought the Board's views to the transfer of the play area on part of the former HMS Daedalus site to Gosport Borough Council and requested the Board to make its recommendations to the Policy and Organisation Board.

Members welcomed the news of this transfer as they considered it would be beneficial to the Borough.

RESOLVED: That:

1. the Policy and Organisation Board be recommended to approve the transfer of the land identified in the report of the Leisure and Cultural Services Manager on the terms set out in the report; and
2. the Borough Solicitor be authorised to complete the necessary legal documentation to acquire the land as public open space.

15. SOUTHERN WATER SCRUTINY

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Solicitor requesting the Board to consider the report and recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee following their scrutiny of Southern Water's plans for investment in infrastructure in the Borough.

Members commended the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for their thorough scrutiny of these issues. Instances of flooding in the Borough were increasing with the changes in weather patterns and it was important to maintain a dialogue with Southern Water in finding solutions to these problems.

Members welcomed the suggestion of the formation of a Forum of Representatives to discuss issues with Southern Water as recommended by the Committee. It was proposed that this should be on a 1:1:1 political group basis and Councillors Mrs Cully and Mrs Salter were nominated. The Conservative Group would confirm their Member in due course.

RESOLVED: That:

1. The report of the Borough Solicitor and the recommendations contained therein be noted; and
2. Members nominated to attend the proposed Forum of representatives from Southern Water, Gosport Borough Council and Hampshire County Council to be Councillors Mrs Cully, Mrs Salter plus one Member from the Conservative Group.

16. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Chairman reminded Members that there would be a tour of the Wildgrounds on 8 July 2008 at 6.30pm. He recommended this very worthwhile event which was something that could be enjoyed by the whole family.

The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and concluded at 6.55pm

CHAIRMAN