

Minutes of a meeting of the **Environmental Excellence Panel** held at Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich on **Thursday 20 September 2018** at **4.00 pm** when there were present:

Mr J F Fisher – Chairman

Mrs J K Copplestone
Mrs J Leggett

Mr G K Nurden
Mr V B Tapp

Mr J M Ward

Also in attendance were the Deputy Chief Executive, Environmental Protection Manager, Private Sector Housing Manager, Renewable and Energy Efficiency Officer and the Committee Officer (JO).

17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Grady, Mr Mackie and Mr Roper.

18 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2018 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Minute no 12 – Minutes

A Member advised the Committee that the fund raising was going well for the student who was collecting waste from the Broads to fund a trip to Tanzania to be part of a conservation team clearing beaches of plastic.

Minute no. 13 – Household Waste Recycling Centres – Changes to Charging

A Member informed the meeting that residents were still concerned about charges at Household Waste Recycling Centres and the possible linkage to fly tipping. The Chairman advised the meeting that a Norfolk wide initiative on fly tipping was taking place and so far there was little evidence that there was a connection between charges at Household Waste Recycling Centres and fly tipping.

19 DOG FOULING PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER

The report proposed implementing new legislation in respect of dog fouling, which would cover more areas of the District than existing legislation, as well as increasing the level of fixed penalty notice that could be issued to an offender.

Broadland currently used the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 to issue owners with a fixed penalty notice of £50, if they failed to clear up after their dog. If taken to court they could also face a maximum fine of £1,000. However, the legislation contained a number of exemptions for certain types of land (marshland, moorland, heathland, woodland, common land and roads above 40 mph speed restriction), which had prevented action being taken in the past against irresponsible owners in these areas.

It was, therefore, proposed to introduce a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) under the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014. This would then apply to the whole of the District and the level of fine that could be issued would also double from £50 to £100.

The Environmental Protection Manager advised the meeting that this was an innovative use of legislation that had hitherto been used for anti-social behaviour, such as alcohol or drug use in public places. He emphasised that the legislation would not impose any additional restriction or control on dog owners.

In order to adopt the new legislation a statutory consultation must be carried out involving the Chief Officer of Police, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Norfolk County Council, landowners and town and parish councils. The validity of the PSPO could be challenged during the six weeks consultation period.

Once issued, the PSPO lasted for three years, after which time a consultation must take place again. There was no limit to how long a PSPO could remain in place for, but a consultation had to occur every three years.

In response to a query the Environmental Protection Manager confirmed that the only areas excluded would be private land, where a landowner allowed access and agreed that dog fouling could take place. He also confirmed that bags containing dog mess were a littering offence and subject to an £80 fine.

Members were advised that the legislation would not change the way dog fouling was investigated, but it would ensure that a wider area of the District was covered. The Council continued to rely on witnesses coming forward with good quality evidence in order to prosecute offenders.

Members were also assured that each case would be looked at individually and according to its circumstances.

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET

to agree to the implementation of a PSPO to control dog fouling across the District, and to amend the Constitution to delegate enforcement powers to officers.

20 AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP PILOT PROJECT

The Council was proposing a pilot project for the installation of Air Source Heat Pumps, for vulnerable households in the District, who were off gas. The project would be using Renewable Heat Incentive funding. The scheme would not be available for households with oil boilers.

The cost for fitting a three bedroom semi-detached property with Air Source Heat Pumps would be approximately £8,000. Air Source Heat Pumps produced constant heat, but at a lower temperature.

One option would be to offer a loan, with the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) being payable back to the Council to cover the loan and any maintenance would be the responsibility of the householder.

The second option would be for the installer to claim the RHI and to maintain the equipment for the following seven years.

Saffron and Clarion Housing Associations were currently installing Air Source Heat Pumps in their properties and were not encountering any operational problems.

Members were advised that a report would be taken to Cabinet in November that would set out in more detail the options for the pilot scheme. The Council would have loans available to install Air Source Heat Pumps in 25 dwellings.

Some Members felt that it would be preferable for the scheme to pilot the second option whereby the installer claimed the RHI and maintained the equipment for the following seven years but the report for Cabinet would set out both options for Members to consider.

Members emphasised that householders should be educated in the use of Air Source Heat Pumps, as they were quite different from other more conventional forms of heating.

21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 8 November 2018

The meeting closed at 4.57pm