

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

23rd October 2006

PRESENT:-

Labour Group
Councillor Lane (Chair) and Councillor Mrs. Mead.

Conservative Group
Councillors Atkin, Bladen and Lemmon.

APOLOGY

An apology for absence from the Meeting was received from Councillor Bambrick (Vice-Chair) (Labour Group).

CYS/25. MINUTES

The Open Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th September 2006 and of the Special Meeting held on 25th September 2006 were taken as read, approved as true records and signed by the Chair.

CYS/26. FEEDBACK FROM THE MEETINGS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AND HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEES

The Committee considered a report on feedback from the Meetings of the Environmental and Development Services and Housing and Community Services Committees in respect of reports referred on to them by this Committee.

Members were advised that following the discussions at the Special Meeting of this Committee held on 25th September 2006, the Environmental and Development Services Committee at its Meeting on 5 October 2006 considered reports on:-

- Achieving Targets 2006/09 Planning Applications
- Achieving Targets 2006/09 Waste Management

The Committee resolved as follows:-

- Achieving Targets 2006/09 Waste Minimisation – that the report be received and that officers be requested to take cognisance of its recommendations in reporting back on the issues to the Environmental and Development Services Committee Meeting on 9th January 2007
- Achieving Targets 2006/09 Planning Applications – that the report be received and that the Committee give consideration to the recommendations within the next three months.

The Housing and Community Services Committee at its Meeting on 12th October 2006 considered reports on:-

- Arrangements for Improving Homelessness Services – BVPI 183 (a) and (b)

- Audit Commission Inspection of the Council's Housing Repairs and Maintenance Service.

The Housing and Community Services Committee approved the recommendations of this Scrutiny Committee in respect of the arrangements for Improving Homelessness Services – BVPI 183 (a) and (b) and the report on the Audit Commission Inspection of the Council's Housing Repairs and Maintenance Service.

- ***It was agreed that the Committee notes the decisions of the Environmental and Development Services Committee and the Housing and Community Services Committee, as outlined above.***

CYS/27. POSSIBLE CHANGES TO THE RURAL POST OFFICE NETWORK

The Committee considered a draft letter on possible changes to the rural Post Office Network. The letter advised of the work of the Scrutiny Committee to date relating to possible changes to the rural post office network and invited rural postmasters, parish councillors and residents to attend a series of informal "drop-in meetings" which had been arranged on the following dates:-

- Monday 13th November 2006 – Melbourne Leisure Centre – 3.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.
- Tuesday 14th November 2006 – Overseal Village Hall – 4.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.
- Wednesday 15th November 2006 – Hatton Centre – 3.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

The purpose of the informal meetings were twofold; to enable postmasters/mistresses, parish councillors and residents to make any additional comments regarding possible changes to the rural post office network, and for District Councillors to explore the various options and proposals to support the viability of the rural post office network in the District of South Derbyshire.

It was agreed:-

- ***That the draft letter in respect of possible changes to the rural post office network be approved.***
- ***That a copy of the letter in respect of possible changes to the rural post office network be sent to the Coton-in-the-Elms and Ticknall Parish Councils and all the Parish Councils in the Aston Ward.***
- ***That the Deputy Chief Executive be requested to circulate information to all Members of the Committee on the feedback received from sub-postmasters/mistresses, parish councillors and the public in respect of the consultation exercise on possible changes to the rural Post Office Network.***

CYS/28. STREETSCENE REVIEW: PRESENTATION

The Committee received a brief presentation from the Policy Officer in respect of progress on the StreetScene review. Members were advised of and were provided with a copy of the notes from a "StreetScene" meeting held on 11th October 2006. The purpose of the meeting was to establish the current position on the StreetScene project and to undertake a refocusing exercise, if

necessary. The Meeting noted that the scope of the StreetScene project was as follows:-

- It would encompass all elements of the Environment Act.
- Determine what issues needed to be reported to the one telephone number.
- Suggestions included pavements, potholes, litter, broken/damaged street furniture, abandoned vehicles, dog fouling, fly tipping, defective street lights, overhanging trees, dirty street signs etc.
- Enforcement activities to be excluded.
- A badged service.

The meeting held on 11th October 2006 identified the following concerns in respect of the StreetScene project:-

- The South Derbyshire CVS report referred only to Swadlincote High Street.
- South Derbyshire CVS findings confirmed the findings of the consultant's report which was commissioned by Planning Services.
- Other urban areas needed to be considered.
- There was a need to address other issues such as cleanliness, street furniture, contact points etc. Reference was also made to the Cleansing the Environment Best Value Review which was undertaken in 2001.
- South Derbyshire District Council/Derbyshire County Council Call Centre staff to provide seamless services to the customer.
- Derbyshire County Council/South Derbyshire District Council frontline staff, to report problems/issues to the Call Centre to enable action to be taken by the responsible authority.

The meeting held on 11th October 2006 agreed the following actions:-

- South Derbyshire CVS to be briefed regarding requirements.
- South Derbyshire District Council Customer First Staff to be invited to the Focus Group on 6th November 2006.
- Copy of the Cleansing the Environment BVR to be circulated.
- South Derbyshire CVS to report findings (end November 2006) to Derbyshire County Council (and copied to South Derbyshire District Council).
- Environmental and Development Services and Scrutiny Committees include agenda items for meetings on 9th and 15th January 2007.
- Date of January 2007 Derbyshire County Council Scrutiny Meeting to be established.
- Joint follow up Meeting to be arranged.

Members were advised that the next Meeting of the StreetScene Group would be held on 29th November 2006 at 4.00 p.m. and all Members of the Scrutiny Committee were invited to attend. It was intended that a report on the StreetScene Review would be submitted to the January 2007 Meeting of this Committee in order that any recommendations could be submitted to the Environmental and Development Services Committee Meeting in January 2007.

It was agreed that the contents of the notes of the Meeting held on 11th October 2006 and the proposals to progress the StreetScene Review be noted.

CYS/29. COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2006/07: PRESENTATION

A copy of the Committee's Work Programme for 2006/07 was circulated to all Members present at the Meeting.

It was agreed:-

That it be noted that the following areas of work on the Community Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme 2006/07 had been reported to the relevant Policy Committees and that further progress would be reported back to this Committee:-

- ***Achieving Targets 2006/09 Planning Applications.***
- ***Achieving Targets 2006/09 Waste Management.***
- ***Arrangements for Improving Homelessness Services – BVPI 183 (a) and (b).***
- ***Audit Commission Inspection of the Council's Housing Repairs and Maintenance Service.***

PCT Issues and District Council Liaison

It was agreed:-

- ***That a report on the new governance structure and service arrangements for the health authority would be submitted to the January 2007 Meeting of this Committee.***
- ***That the Deputy Chief Executive be requested to write to the recently appointed Chief Executive of the new Derbyshire Health Authority welcoming them to that post and requesting that they give a presentation to an appropriate Meeting of the Council on the work of the new Health Authority.***

E-enablement Scrutiny of Outward Looking Agenda

The Committee noted that it would receive a report on progress of the E-enablement Scrutiny of the "outward looking agenda" at its December 2006 Meeting.

Corporate Plan 3 Priorities

The Committee noted that it would receive a report on the Corporate Plan 3 Priorities matter at its February 2007 Meeting, with a view to a report being submitted to the Environmental and Development Services Committee in March 2007.

StreetScene Review

The Committee noted that it was proposed that a joint final report on the StreetScene Review would be submitted to this Committee at its Meeting on 9th January 2007 with a report on any proposals to be submitted to the Environmental and Development Services Committee at its Meeting on 15th January 2007.

R. LANE

CHAIR

The Meeting terminated at 5.05 p.m.