

Minutes of the Community, Environment and Partnerships Committee meeting held on Wednesday, 17 January 2018 in Committee Rooms 1 & 2 - Deanes, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council at 6.30 pm

Members of the Community, Environment and Partnerships Committee in attendance: Councillor R Golding (Chair), Councillor J Cousens, Councillor G James, Councillor T Jones, Councillor A McCormick, Councillor J Richards, Councillor D Taylor and Councillor V Rowland

Also present:

Councillor S Bound - Cabinet Member for Communities and Community Safety
Councillor H Eachus - Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services and the Environment
Councillor T Reid – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Regeneration, Arts and Heritage

38/17 Apologies for absence and substitutions

Councillor K Carruthers was replaced by Councillor S Frost.
Councillor R Gardiner was replaced by Councillor R Bean.
Councillor C Regan was replaced by Councillor A Freeman.

39/17 Appointment of Vice-Chair

There were no nominations received for the appointment of Vice-Chairman. This seat remains vacant.

40/17 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

41/17 Urgent matters

There were no urgent matters considered.

42/17 Minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on the 8 November 2017 were confirmed by the committee as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

43/17 Briefing Note on air quality in the borough

The Chair invited visiting speakers Martin Heath and Martin Biermann from the Basingstoke Transition Network (BTN) to address the Committee and give a short presentation, their comments included:

- The main concern for good air quality was NOx and Particulate matter.
- An explanation of their results of air NOx monitoring.
- More encouragement of cycling within the Borough would help to improve air

quality.

- They had identified eight key areas of action:
 - 1) Increase the level of monitoring
 - 2) Build awareness of the issue
 - 3) Encourage fewer journeys
 - 4) Improve (not cut) bus services and public transport
 - 5) Shift to walking and cycling
 - 6) Encourage EV and low carbon transport
 - 7) Use technology to reduce congestion
 - 8) Ensure every planning decision is taken in light of the impact on air quality

The Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services and the Environment thanked the Basingstoke Transition Network for their presentation and introduced the report which provided the committee with a summary of the work that the council had currently undertaken in order to fulfil its statutory duties in relation to local air quality and ensure that it meets national standards.

She then invited the Regulatory Services Manager to comment further on the report.

He explained that following the concerns from BTN they had agreed new monitoring locations. He informed the committee that they had been in contact with Hampshire County Council in regards to work that they had been carried out with local schools such as the “my journey” initiative which promoted and raised awareness of air quality issues. The Council had recently gone out to consultation on the new taxi and private hire policy which sought to introduce an age limit on vehicles to ensure that they had met the new stricter emissions limits.

The committee asked questions to the Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services and the Environment and Officers which included:-

- What processes could be introduced to pre-empt any serious issues.
- Concern was raised in regards to the amount of electric charging points currently within the borough and whether only having three points made residents less receptive to switching to electric vehicles from internal combustion vehicles.
- Clarification was sought in regards to whether the Council had looked at its vehicle fleet as a whole with specific reference to buses and what euro standard we use currently. The Regulatory Services Manager agreed to provide the committee with more detail on the profiles of its existing fleet.

The Chair invited the committee to make any further comments which included:-

- They welcomed the initiative to work with the HCC School Travel Team to monitor specific areas such as outside schools within the borough
- They welcomed the fact that if members had specific concerns about any

sites then they were able to contact and discuss with officers

- They noted that Basingstoke transition network believed that the statutory limits were being exceeded

Resolved: The Committee:

- 1) Supports BTN'S identified eight areas of action and encourages Officers and the Portfolio holder to work with them and other organisations in order to implement these changes.
- 2) As a council we should continue to do everything within our power to promote cleaner air.
- 3) Notes that DEFRA has expressed concern regarding the A339 and officers had been in contact with them to determine which specific part of the road they were referring to in order to take any appropriate action.
- 4) Requests that Ward councillors be made aware of any air quality concerns within their ward.
- 5) Request that officers return in 12 months' time in order to update the committee on the specific positive actions that the council has made in regard to air quality.

44/17 **Neighbourhood Management Working Group Update**

The Chair introduced the report which provided the Committee with an update on the work carried out by the Neighbourhood Management Working Group making particular reference to "Report it" and the introduction of a pilot scheme by the Operations team which managed specific issues in the Norden ward, following the success of the pilot, It had been agreed that there would be a pilot scheme in a rural ward and Pamber and Silchester had been nominated.

Reference was also made to:

- The environmental maintenance scheme in Buckskin and South Ham which had been running very well as due to the introduction of a single contractor issues could be resolved much more quickly. The scheme would be reviewed after 12 months and potentially extended to other areas.
- The Council had taken over the grounds maintenance and litter picking work for Basing View. Consideration was being given in regards to bringing other areas of work back in-house.
- The provision of additional staff in order to undertake enhanced maintenance projects in specific areas.
- Discussions had taken place with Hampshire County Council (HCC) in

regards to utility company repairs and damaged company media boxes. Any problems should be reported to HCC so that they can be pursued.

Resolved: The Committee:

- 1) Welcomes the report and thanks officers for their hard work
- 2) Acknowledges how well received the pilot scheme in Buckskin has been

45/17 **Town Centre Community Facilities**

The Cabinet Member for Communities and Community Safety introduced the report which provided the committee with a summary of the outcome of the building assessments and recommendations for works to be undertaken to improve the Town Centre Community Facilities.

The Chair invited the committee to make any comments which included :-

- Members supported the proposed priorities for the allocation of the S106 funds set out in the report.
- Members questioned the utilisation of CCTV and its effectiveness and value for money when used at certain locations. The Cabinet Member confirmed that this would be taken forward in the ongoing conversations with trustees.
- Whether solar panels were a good option for providing energy to the community centres.

Resolved: The Committee

- 1) Notes the report and requests that the Cabinet Member for Communities and Community considers its views

46/17 **Basingstoke Live 2018**

The Chair invited visiting speaker Mr John Revell to address the committee, His comments included:

- Basingstoke Live had always been a free event that showcased local talent.
- Dismay over the proposal to introduce an entry fee.

The Chair invited the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Regeneration, Arts and Heritage to introduce the report which sought views from the Committee on plans to introduce an entrance fee for Basingstoke Live in 2018.

The committee asked questions to the Cabinet Member and Officers which included:-

- Why was there a proposal to remove the creative stage.

- What surveys had been carried out with users of the event to determine whether they would be supportive of the introduction of an entrance fee and a third day.
- How many people pre-registered for tickets last year.
- How did the event effect revenue for other areas of the town such as the top of town.
- What would the provision be those who do not have internet access so that they could obtain tickets.
- Was there a cost to collect the money from ticket sales.

The Chair invited the committee to make any further comments which included:-

- Concern that the charge would exclude low income families from attending the event.
- Some members felt that the introduction of an entry fee would deter previous attendees from returning and could potentially lead to the demise of the event.
- It was acknowledged that the entry fee would be used to attract more headline artists which could result in a higher attendance.
- Various members thought that the changes would help to evolve the event and continue to make it successful.
- Some members felt that the decision to introduce an entry fee should be postponed until further consultation had been carried out.

Resolved: The Committee

- 1) Requests that the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing, Regeneration, Arts and Heritage considers its views and notes that there was no clear consensus on the proposal to introduce an entry fee for Basingstoke Live 2018
- 2) Endorses the importance of Basingstoke Live as an event and its continued success

47/17 **Community Environment and Partnerships work programme**

The Committee notes its work programme.

The meeting ended at 9.33 pm.

Chairman