

Runnymede Borough Council
ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

16 January 2020 at 7.30pm

Members of the Committee present: Councillors M Heath (Chairman) J Wilson (Vice-Chairman)
M Brierley, B Clarke, S Dennett, T Gracey, J Olorenshaw, S Walsh,
D Whyte and M Willingale

Members of the Committee absent: None

441 FIRE PRECAUTIONS

The Chairman read out the Fire Precautions.

442 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21 November 2019 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

443 PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER – DOG CONTROL LEGISLATION

The Committee was advised that the Dog Control Public Space Protection Order (Runnymede Borough Council) 2017 would expire on 22 January 2020.

Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) issued under The Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 remained in force for a maximum period of 3 years. In January 2017 Runnymede Borough Council issued a PSPO covering dog control matters related to dog fouling, keeping dogs on leads and excluding dogs from specified areas. The Order came into effect on 23 January 2017. A PSPO could be made by a local authority if it was satisfied that the following conditions were met:

- Activities carried on in a public place had a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality or it was likely that if such activities carried on they would have such an effect.
- The effect of the activity was likely to be of a persistent or continuing nature, or was likely to be, such as to make the activities unreasonable.

There had been 52 incidents of dog fouling reported to Runnymede Borough Council in the 3 years the order had been in place and 2 fixed penalty notices for dog fouling had been issued. There had been a couple of reported incidents of dog behaviour causing annoyance or disturbance both of which were dealt with by way of alternative powers available under the Act with a Community Protection Notice served on the individuals concerned.

Members were advised that before making a Public Space Protection Order the local authority had to consult with the Police, Police and Crime Commissioner and other relevant bodies. This statutory consultation was currently in progress. The new order would be published on the Council's website on Monday 20 January for two weeks. The order would be similar to the 2017 order with the additional requirement for any person who was

believed to have engaged in a breach of the order, being required to give their name and address to a Police Officer or an Officer authorised by Runnymede Borough Council.

444 ENFORCEMENT OF LITTER AND DOG CONTROL LEGISLATION

The Committee was advised that the current enforcement arrangements between the Council and Kingdom Environmental Protection Service (KEPS) with respect to the service of fixed penalty notices for litter and dog control offences had been terminated on 1 January 2020.

In June 2018 Members had given delegated authority to Officers to tender the enforcement of fixed penalty notices for littering and dog control legislation for a minimum two-year period beginning in January 2019. Kingdom Environmental Protection had previously provided this service to the Council on a trial basis since 2017 and were successful in the tendering process, so a new contract was entered into on 3 January 2019. On 14 November 2019 the Kingdom Services Group gave notice to the Council of its intention not to continue delivering the service after 1 January 2020 as it was no longer commercially viable for them to do so.

Officers were currently looking at securing a replacement for KEPS to take up the service from April 2020 onwards. However, the time would be used to consider the delivery of the service in-house subject to the outcome of ongoing exploratory work into the establishment of a Runnymede Joint Enforcement Team (JET). In the meantime, Officers would deal with any particular problems arising.

The placement and cleanliness of bins in open spaces was raised as a concern. Officers advised the Committee that Officers were currently undertaking a review of bins throughout the Borough, where consideration would be given to the placement and size of the bins provided.

445 SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL – CLIMATE CHANGE

Members were informed of the outcome of a Surrey County Council (SCC) meeting on 10 December 2019 at which Surrey County Council Members formally adopted a 'Call for Action' in response to the SCC declaration of a climate emergency in July 2019.

The Committee received for information a copy of the SCC Officer report containing the 'Call for Action' which had followed a recommendation from the SCC cabinet on 24 November 2019 'Report of Surrey's Greener Future Task Group' which looked at climate change issues.

Members asked Officers to produce a Runnymede 'Call for Action' and publish on the Council's website. The Committee wanted to ensure residents were aware that Runnymede was taking climate change seriously and were working on the process to improve the climate. Additionally, it was noted that the Council's Communications team were currently working on producing a webpage on climate change.

It was reported that National Tree week had been held in November and the possibility of planting further trees in Runnymede was discussed. The Committee was fully supportive of this. However, consideration would need to be given to ensure appropriate trees were planted in appropriate places.

Officers were asked for an update on the ECO park at Shepperton with regard to when it was likely to be operational. At present Officers had no further updates but Members would be updated as and when more information became available.

446 KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS 2019/20 RESULTS – QUARTER 2

The Committee received the results of the Environmental Services Key Performance Indicators (KPI) for Quarter 2 of 2019/2020.

Officers reported that for reasons unknown there had been a marked increase in the average residual household waste collected in the second quarter (still below the 115kg quarterly target). This may have also impacted on the reduced recycling rate for the same quarter.

Members were disappointed to note that the percentage of household waste sent for re-use, recycling and composting had reduced. Runnymede Officers were currently working on a new recycling strategy, the strategy would look at what could be done to improve recycling rates in the Borough. The Committee was keen to establish if the decrease in recycling was due to contaminated waste i.e. pizza boxes being placed in recycling bins. Officers advised the Committee that they currently did not have the data to establish if this was the case. It was suggested that any bins found to be contaminated and given a contaminated sticker should be followed up with a letter to the resident to advise them why their recycling wasn't taken. This would be a good ongoing education tool. Members strongly felt that residents needed to continue to be educated as it was believed there was still some confusion on what could be recycled. A new Communications Officer was now in place who would be working on Environmental Services, Recycling, Climate Change and Environmental Issues

The number of missed bin collections had also increased from the first quarter and whilst disappointing Members were reminded that the target figures for this KPI would change next year to 4,000 per year which would be a more reflective indication of the overall collection service which currently achieved a 99.7% success rate.

With regard to the number of street cleaning reports which included: overflowing litterbins, overflowing dog bins and general litter/detritus, the review currently being undertaken would address this. Officers would be looking at identifying which bins needed to be emptied more often and/or needed replacing with a larger bin. Once the review was finalised Officers would look at reviewing how the KPI was reported to ensure it gave a breakdown so figures reflected the number of actual complaints received.

It was reported that three new bin lorries were being purchased due to the older vehicles being uneconomical to keep due to persistent breakdowns. The new fleet would be the same as before and were low emission vehicles.

(The meeting ended at 8.31pm)

Chairman