

Runnymede Borough Council

Environment and Sustainability Committee

Thursday, 10 March 2022 at 7.30 pm

Members of the Committee present: Councillors M Heath, N King (Vice-Chairman), D Clarke, R King, S Lewis, I Mullens, J Olorenshaw, D Whyte and M Willingale.

Members of the Committee absent: Councillors S Dennett and S Williams

In attendance: Councillor N Prescott

518 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 17 November 2021 were confirmed and signed as a true record

It was noted that the report on a community involvement/advisory group had not been included in the agenda. Officers would present a report on this at a future meeting of this Committee.

519 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillor S Dennett

520 Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were received.

521 Markets in Egham Review

The Committee was given an update on the development of markets in Egham Town Centre.

In 2020 and 2021 a total of three markets had been held by Surrey Vegan Markets in Egham. The market operator had reported that all three had been successful and that there was a clear appetite for these markets amongst the community. In September 2021, in order to allow further markets/events to occur, this Committee had resolved to allow the Corporate Head of Law and Governance to grant up to 24 licences in a calendar year to the Egham Chamber of Commerce, in addition to the three street trading licences that had already been granted. At that meeting it had been recommended that the Egham Chamber of Commerce ran a trial period of 6 events to be reviewed at the end of the period, allowing for possible further events in other parts of the Borough based on outcomes.

Officers advised the Committee that at present there were only two licensed streets in the Borough (both in Egham). In order to look at expanding markets to other parts of the Borough the Council's street trading policy would need to be reviewed, a consultation process undertaken, then following and subject to this an application could be made to make more streets licensed. Due to the administration work needed for this Officers considered that it was more beneficial to do this en bloc rather than take a piecemeal approach

Members discussed various locations in the Borough where they felt a market would be popular including Guildford Street in Chertsey, Addlestone One, New Haw, Englefield

Green and Ottershaw. The Committee agreed it would also be beneficial for the Infrastructure and Economic Development Member Working Party to look at supporting this Committee with expansion of markets in the Borough. Members were keen to look at introducing more markets into the Borough, particularly to provide a proactive approach to new businesses as a set up and to aid post-covid economic recovery.

Egham Chamber of Commerce had already indicated that they had a broader range of traders potentially interested in Egham. Officers advised the Committee that in order to accurately assess the success of the additional markets and to gauge their impact on the town centre, Officers would undertake an assessment once a wider variety of markets had been held and report back to this Committee in September.

522 **Standing Order 42**

Members noted the SO42 completed in October 2021 regarding appointment of appropriate staff of the UK Health Security Agency and SO42 completed in January 2022 regarding Fit and Proper Person Test to relevant caravan sites, caravan licence fees and update on general issues arising from residential caravan sites.

523 **Exclusion of Press and Public**

By resolution of the Committee, the press and public were excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following matter under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that the matter in question would be likely to involve disclosure of exempt information of the description specified in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

524 **Contaminated Land**

Members were presented with a report regarding contaminated land and were asked to put in place the provision of a works in default budget.

Officers advised the Committee that Councils had a duty to investigate their areas for historically contaminated land. Where historical contamination issues were causing a significant possibility of significant harm the Council had a duty to take action. In seeking to act the Council would look to place the cost of cleaning up any remaining contamination in the ground on the person (s) who allowed or permitted the contamination. When such persons/companies were no longer traceable then it was up to the current owner of the premises to take on the responsibility for the clean-up costs. When there was no voluntary agreement for the decontamination of the land then the Council would serve a remediation notice and thereafter, undertake the works in default of the persons responsible for doing the clean-up work. When this occurred, the Council could place a charge on the premises when it was sold or transferred, or the person wished to clear the charge

The Committee was advised that Officers were seeking to put in place a budget provision to allow the Council to undertake remediation work if it became necessary.

The Committee supported this approach

RESOLVED that –

The Committee approve the sum of £30,000 for the provision of a works in default budget

525 **Standing Order 42**

Members noted the SO42 No.996 completed in February 2022

(The meeting ended at 8.08 pm.)

Chairman