

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY, COMMUNITIES & PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at the Council Headquarters, The Pavilions, Clydach Vale on Monday, 13th February 2017 at 5.00 p.m.

PRESENT

County Borough Councillor G. R. Davies – in the Chair

County Borough Councillors

(Mrs) J. Bonetto	P. Howe
S. A. Bradwick	(Mrs) S. Pickering
S. Carter	M. Weaver
J. Elliott	T. Williams
G. Holmes	R. Yeo

Officers

Mr A. Wilkins – Head of Legal – Corporate & Democratic Services

Mr N. Wheeler – Director Highways & Streetcare Services

Mr A. Critchlow – Parking Services & Streetworks Manager

J. Nicholls – Senior Democratic Services Officer

47. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors (Mrs) A. Davies, (Mrs) L. De. Vet and L. Langford

48. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, there were no personal declarations of interests made, pertaining to the agenda.

49. MINUTES

RESOLVED – to approve as an accurate record the minutes of the meeting of the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee held on the 12th December 2016.

Matters Arising – Minute No's. 42 & 46

In response to a query (and with reference to Minute No's 42 & 46, respectively) the Chairman confirmed that he had been in correspondence

with the Director, Highways & Streetcare Services to discuss contamination figures in light of the BBC Wales programme 'Week In, Week Out' but had not pursued the meeting with the Cabinet Member for Council Business and Human Resources following resolution of issues relating to Amgen Cymru.

50. REVIEW OF CAR PARKING CHARGES

The Parking Services & Streetworks Manager informed Members that at the 18th January 2017 Cabinet meeting, the report outlining the Review of Car Parking Charges across RCT (attached as Appendix 1) was considered and key decisions agreed that were clarified with the aid of Power Point as follows:-

- New tariffs: Aberdare & Pontypridd
- Abolition of charges: Tonypany, Porth & Mountain Ash
- £1 Saturday parking
- Free December parking
- Maximum stay of 4 hrs
- Future payment facilities

The Parking Services & Streetworks Manager reported that the key decisions will be implemented with a view to supporting town centres which, despite a range of initiatives and promotion strategies, have suffered in recent years due to a change in our retail habits and growing competition from large out-of-town developments. It was confirmed that the overwhelming majority of consultees were in favour of reduced tariffs in car parking charges in order to promote town centres and local businesses. As a result of these views, the changes to the town centre car parks such as the flat rate of £1.00 for all day parking in long stay car parks for Saturdays in Pontypridd and Aberdare and free parking after 10.00am across car parks in Pontypridd and Aberdare throughout the month of December will be implemented from the 1st April 2017.

The Parking Services & Streetworks Manager provided context to the feasibility study which is being undertaken with a view to the possible future introduction of card payment facilities via credit/debit cards, mobile payments or payments on foot.

Following his presentation, the Parking Services & Streetworks Manager responded to several questions from the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee who stressed the importance of striking the balance between supporting shoppers, local residents and traders alike. Members were informed that the implementation of the current changes to fees and car parking charges would be monitored over the next 12 months to assess its impact and, in partnership with the Council's Regeneration division, the footfall data will be measured and monitored.

Members praised the proposals stating that they would benefit smaller town centres by increasing the footfall and reducing the longer car journeys to out-of-town retail.

RESOLVED - that following the implementation of the revised car parking regime, Members of the Public Service Delivery, Communities and Prosperity Scrutiny Committee receive further updates in relation to the Council car park operations.

51. RECYCLING IN RCT- QUARTERLEY UPDATE

The Director of Highways & Streetcare Services presented his quarterly report in respect of recycling data and targets by means of a Power Point presentation thus enabling scrutiny to continue its role in monitoring the municipal recycling rate and to ensure it meets the national target of 70% by 2014/15 set by Welsh Government.

Committee was reminded that since 2013/14 there has been a gradual, sustainable improvement in the recycling rates for RCT which has reached 64.95% for 2016/17 compared to the Welsh Government target of 58%. The recycling figure for January 2017 reached over 70% (which is equal to the national target set for 2024/2025) and a total of 1000 tonnes of recycling for the month of January 2017 was recorded for the first time. It is considered that the Community Recycling Centres are also greatly contributing to the overall recycling rate by achieving a consistent rate of recycling of 80%. It is also thought that an increased participation by residents, particularly in respect of food waste recycling, has greatly contributed to the overall improving picture within RCT.

Committee was advised that a number of steps need to be pursued in order to maintain the improving recycling rates such as continued awareness campaigns, a change in the Legislative Powers, making it incumbent on all residents to recycle, and continued bag drops to residents to further encourage them to recycle. In conclusion the Director of Highways & Streetcare Services reported the following data for 2016/17:-

- 1,070 tonnes of nappies collected
- 5,692 bulky waste requests received
- 100 Sharps bins collected weekly
- 381 trade waste customers
- 10 members of staff managing waste
- 150 members of staff within the operations team (e.g. team leaders and drivers)

The Director of Highways & Streetcare Services responded to a number of questions from members of the Committee in respect of the presentation and

advised that there would be a revamp of the Education Centre at Bryn Pica, by means of Welsh Government funding, which would see the centre become more engaging for children and help raise awareness of recycling at an early age through to adulthood. Following discussion in respect of other projects underway at the Amgen Cymru site in Bryn Pica, Members praised the work which has been undertaken by the Refuse/Recycling Service to help raise awareness amongst the residents of RCT and throughout Wales which they considered to be leading the way in Europe.

At this stage in the discussion a member of the Committee used a term which was deemed inappropriate by the Chair who requested an apology. An apology was duly issued by the Member and discussions resumed.

The Director of Highways & Streetcare Services apprised Committee of the recent decision agreed by Cabinet (9th February 2017) to undertake a 4 week public consultation in respect of the proposal to make a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to introduce dog controls in Rhondda Cynon Taf. Members were also advised that the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee would be required to form part of that consultation process.

RESOLVED that:-

1. Scrutiny receive and note the update in respect of recycling in RCT,
2. Staff concerned in the Refuse/Recycling Sections be complimented on the work that they have undertaken in supporting the Council and its communities to increase recycling levels and for their endeavours in raising the public's awareness in the areas associated with recycling,
3. Members of the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee form part of the Council's consultation process to make a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to introduce dog controls in RCT.

The meeting closed at 6.10pm

Chairman
G. R. Davies