

## **REPORT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE**

**(Meeting held 16 June 1999)**

### **1. GREAT BALLARD LAKE, NEW MILTON (REPORT A) (MINUTE NO. 4)**

Great Ballard Lake, which is situated to the west of Fernhill Lane close to its junction with Grove Road, has two watercourses draining to it. The lake is situated within an amenity area used by local residents and is a habitat for ducks and other wild birds. It is also an important part of the land drainage system in the area, acting as a storage pond for surface water at times of extreme weather conditions when the watercourses are in full flow. The lake is in need of major maintenance work which it is estimated will cost a total of £66,000.

New Milton Town Council are the owners of the lake and surrounding amenity land and operate the sluice gate which controls the level of water, particularly at times of prolonged heavy rainfall when the banks are in danger of being over-topped.

By modifying the lake as part of the improvement works it will be possible to increase the storage capacity at times of peak flows in the watercourses and make the lake edge safer. This will increase the level of protection against flooding of the vulnerable area downstream.

The Committee have agreed that works should be undertaken, in partnership with New Milton Town Council, to enable design work to proceed for the improvement of Great Ballard Lake.

The Council hold developers' contributions in respect of land drainage for this part of New Milton and the Committee have further agreed that a contribution of £39,000 be made from these contributions towards the total estimated cost of the scheme. New Milton Town Council have indicated that they will be making a contribution of £16,000 from their own funds and will endeavour to raise the remaining £11,000 from other sources.

The Committee have asked for a further report to their next meeting identifying a priority list of works for the site with appropriate costs.

### **2. RECYCLING PLAN – UPDATE (REPORT E) (MINUTE NO. 8)**

The Council first published a recycling plan in January 1993 which set out proposals for the development of a recycling strategy and the introduction of household collections of recyclables. The plan was first updated in February 1995, and is now being updated again in partnership with other waste collection authorities in Hampshire.

Following suggestions by the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) it has been agreed that a common Project Integra Recycling Plan should be prepared comprising general information relating to the Project Integra strategy and individual Waste Collection Authority Recycling Plans.

The recycling plan deals with both household waste, which is collected from 74,313 domestic properties, and commercial waste which is collected from 1,200 local business properties. The Council participates actively in County wide waste minimisation projects and is a partner in the Building Better Businesses Project which seeks to encourage businesses in the local service sector to reduce their waste.

The Council have been operating a home composting scheme since April 1996 and just over 4,000 home composters have been sold at cost price to local residents.

In considering the medium term priorities for expanding and developing the Council's recycling activities the Committee have agreed that arrangements for recycling garden waste collected from households should be evaluated together with the possibility of recycling furniture in association with external partners.

After discussion the Committee agreed the recycling plan update for inclusion in the Hampshire Project Integra Recycling Plan.

**3. AIR QUALITY STRATEGY - INTERIM REPORT ON THE SECOND STAGE OF REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT – OPTION TO BID FOR SUPPLEMENTARY CREDIT APPROVAL (REPORT F) (MINUTE NO. 9)**

In 1997 the Government published its national air quality strategy which set standards and objectives to be met in respect of eight major pollutants. The Environment Act 1995 placed a duty on Local Authorities to carry out regular local reviews and assessments of the level of these air pollutants within their district. The Committee have previously looked at the work that was carried out at the end of the first stage of the review and assessment on air quality. In view of the nature of the industry and traffic within the district it was concluded that it was necessary to carry out a second and possibly third stage review and assessment.

The Committee have noted that the number of pollutants and sites that required further review was greater than was originally estimated. Due to the complex specifications required for the various precision monitors the estimate for the equipment was now £75,000 which has formed the basis of a Supplementary Credit Approval (SCA) bid.

The Committee have agreed that monitoring should be undertaken at Ringwood and Hythe/Holbury/Fawley. No monitoring will take place at Marchwood until the implications of the proposed major developments in the area are made clear.

Some members of the Committee expressed concern that Totton had not been identified as a priority site. The Committee were advised that there would be a continual review and assessment of the entire district and that monitoring of pollutants in the Totton area would be the subject of a further report to the Committee in September.

Members were advised that, subject to the SCA bid being successful, the monitoring equipment will be left at the sites for a further six months in order to come to a view on the nature of the pollutants.

#### **4. SERVICE ENHANCEMENTS – STREET CLEANSING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE (REPORT G) (MINUTE NO. 10)**

**The Committee have considered a range of options for targeting additional resources in order to enhance the standards of the street cleansing service and the grounds maintenance service.**

In respect of Street Cleansing the Committee have agreed to the acquisition of an additional midi sweeper at a cost of £42,200 per annum; the provision of additional resources for added weekend and bank holiday working during the holiday season at a cost of £17,750; the introduction of an additional “hit squad” with pedestrian sweeper at a cost of £49,250; and the installation and emptying of an additional 24 dog waste bins at a cost of £7,800 per annum.

In relation to dog waste members were concerned to ensure that sufficient was being done in terms of education and noted that whilst Dog Wardens had written to schools offering educational talks the response had been very poor. However, the Dog Wardens did take part in the “child safe” event held at Foxlease in June. The Committee noted that the Dog Warden Service was very high profile and were advised of the new process available to Dog Wardens to issue on the spot fixed penalty tickets.

With regard to Grounds Maintenance, the Council currently has five grounds maintenance contracts which cover cemeteries, housing, highways agency areas, highways direct areas and car parks and amenity land. The Committee agreed that any enhancements to the service would be most appropriate in the housing and highway areas which generated the most complaints about the standard of grass cutting.

The Committee have agreed to an additional grass cutting crew which will be used to support existing crews and to act as a quick response squad in problem areas. Such a team will enable regular crews to maintain their regular schedules.

Subject to the approval of the Policy and Resources Committee these enhancements will be introduced in the current year.

**5. INTERIM HIGH LEVEL TARGETS FOR FLOOD AND COASTAL DEFENCE  
(REPORT J) (MINUTE NO. 13)**

The Local Government Association have recently circulated the Government's Interim High Level Targets for flood and coastal defence. The development of these proposals stemmed from the recommendation of the Agricultural Select Committee's report on flood and coast defence and the Independent report on the Easter 1998 floods.

The Committee have welcomed these targets which have the objective of providing a seamless and integrated service of flood forecasting, warning and response as well as a more certain delivery of Government policy towards flood and coastal defence.

**Councillor J Waddington  
CHAIRMAN**

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