

REPORT TO: FULL COUNCIL
Date: 6TH APRIL 2022
OUTSIDE BODY: DEVON AUTHORITIES STRATEGIC WASTE COMMITTEE
REPORT BY: Councillor NETTI PEARSON

1 ACTIVITY

1.1 In November 2021 there was a workshop in May specifically to discuss the Environment Bill and formulate a response to the consultation. I was unable to attend the workshop, however I did attend the two scheduled meetings, in person in June, and virtually in October.

2 PURPOSE

2.1 To promote sustainable, cost effective and efficient service delivery through a shared approach to resource and waste management in Devon.

To take ownership of and be responsible for the development, implementation and review of the Resource and Waste Management Strategy for Devon Action Plan.

To exercise those responsibilities delegated to the Committee and to make recommendations to the respective Authorities including through the Chief Executives and Leaders group on matters of strategic importance including future strategy, collection, treatment and disposal of wastes; and to implement and further develop initiatives as requested by this group and joint consultative committees.

To share resources wherever practicable, having due regard to the opportunities for economies of scale to ensure effective use of resources including joint procurement opportunities to deliver savings to the public purse.

To continue to develop and implement behavioural change & education initiatives to ensure that communities are well informed and are actively encouraged to maximise their opportunities for waste minimisation, reuse and recycling & composting.

To consider and adopt funding policies for the Committee's Budget.

To administer payments from the Committee's Budget in accordance with the County Council's Financial Regulations to finance waste management activities; to receive accounts relating to Joint Schemes; and to consider the annual budget for the Committee.

2.2 The improvement of our environment is a key priority for North Devon Council and working with Devon County Council and the other district councils in Devon promotes partnership working, communications, and a common understanding and approach to tackling the problems of waste and recycling collections. There are also benefits in achieving economies of scale.

3 ACHIEVEMENTS

3.1 A significant element of the year's activity concerned the joint response to the consultation and provisions of the Environment Bill, which became law in November. The workshop in May took place specifically to discuss three elements of the Bill and formulate a response to the consultation: Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging; Deposit Return Scheme; Consistency in Household and Business Recycling.

3.2 The Devon Authorities Shared Saving Scheme was recognised as the 'Best New Idea' at the Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC) Celebration Awards 2021.

The award was accepted by Devon County Council working with and on behalf of five of Devon's waste collection authorities, East Devon, Mid Devon, North Devon, Teignbridge and Torridge District Councils.

The scheme led to savings of £6.8m in treatment costs for the County Council, and half of these savings were shared back with the five District Councils to reinvest in their waste collection services.

4 THE FUTURE

4.1 Another workshop, for Members only, is in the offing looking at how we can extend the current aligned service model. The challenge is to make waste, recycling and litter-disposal easy, and having a consistent approach across Devon will help achieve that objective.

4.2 Working together and sharing best practice have already led to reduced costs and helped to increase recycling rates over all (though there was a slight dip last year). The intention is to find ways of working that will reduce considerably the amount of residual waste created by each household by 2030.

4.3 It is important to continue working in partnership with DASWC. Dealing with the impacts of waste and recycling on our environment has never been so important and the economies of scale and efficiencies that can be achieved by working together are self-evident.

REPORT TO: FULL COUNCIL

Date: 6TH APRIL 2022

OUTSIDE BODY: DEVON CPRE

REPORT BY: Councillor DAVID LUGGAR

Devon CPRE continues to focus on the charity's founding objective, to oppose inappropriate development in rural areas.

The charity has led the way by commissioning two expert reports in the past four years demonstrating that, even according to its own data, the government has overstated the housing requirement for Devon, and for the nation as a whole, by some 80% in its current targets. In North Devon, since the Burwood, Torrington decision on the housing land supply, the charity has been focused on working to assist the LPA in maintaining the integrity of its policies and resisting opportunistic development; including obtaining wide publicity for the fact that North Devon, in common with almost all Devon LPAs, has significantly over-delivered against housing need over the past five years. In 2022 Devon CPRE is assisting the LPA as a Rule 6 Party in the Yelland Public Inquiry.

In the last year Devon CPRE has led the campaign to protect Devon's precious farmland for food production, helping local communities including in North Devon, oppose giant solar arrays on green fields.

Devon CPRE employs expert planning and communications consultants to support members, including many town and parish councils and councillors, in planning issues. Devon CPRE is the 6th largest CPRE branch in the country, and one of the fastest-growing. Its annual Art Competition and Best Devon Churchyard Award continue to grow in popularity.

REPORT TO: NDC

Date: 28.03.22

OUTSIDE BODY: CHULMLEIGH TOWN HALL

REPORT BY: Councillor KEVIN DAVIES

5 ACTIVITY

5.1 The committee has met three times formally and numerous times informally, I have attended on all occasions. Two new Trustees are being appointed of which I am one.

6 PURPOSE

6.1 The Town Hall premises are held upon trust for the purpose of physical and mental training and recreation and social moral and intellectual development through the medium of reading and recreation rooms, library lectures, classed recreations and entertainments or otherwise as may be found expedient for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Chulmleigh and its immediate vicinity. The general management and control of the Trust Premises and the arrangements for their use are vested in the Committee of management.

6.2 The Town Hall is an essential central hub in the community and its purpose and management aligns with the priority areas with particular focus on social engagement and wellbeing whilst assisting numerous user groups and charities.

7 ACHIEVEMENTS

7.1 The last year has again been difficult due to the ongoing COVID situation. The halls have been in use when permitted under Government rules and guidance. The committee have prepared and implemented safeguarding measures following appropriate risk assessments and there have been no known cases of COVID transmission arising from use of the facility. Groups have returned slowly and the Saturday coffee morning is now fully functional and well attended. Other activities such as line dancing, knitting club, lunch clubs etc and various meetings are taking place.

7.2 The committee has met with Martin Slocombe of 361 Energy and a 'Future Fit – Transition to a sustainable low carbon framework' report has been commissioned.

8 THE FUTURE

8.1 The committee is effective and working hard to meet its aims. We are looking at various improvements to the building to raise the quality of the offering and to attract new users. This will align with the recommendations of the 361 Energy report mentioned above.

8.2 The committee are liaising with other local bodies with a view to trialling an electric vehicle 'people mover' so that all venues and events are accessible using a sustainable mode of transport with less reliance on private vehicles. This will contribute to alleviating congestion and parking issues.

8.3 It is useful that the elected ward member (District Councillor) is appointed to the body.

9 OTHER

9.1 The committee are confident that moving forward the Town Hall will continue to play a critical function in the community.

REPORT TO: Corporate and Community Support Manager

16th March 2022

OUTSIDE BODY: Pilton United Charity

REPORT BY: Allan Cameron (District County Council representative).

Activity: In 2021, Committee Meetings were held by Zoom and the recent March meeting was held face-to-face. Mr. David Woolley, Chair of the Charity, stood down in March 2021, at the AGM. Cllr. Miss Janet Coates was elected Chair and Cllr. Mr Jeremy Phillips Vice-chair.

Purpose: The Charity provides affordable housing and, within the almshouses, subsidised housing to people with strong connections to the Pilton area who show need. The housing of people in difficult financial circumstances (receiving benefits) or with age-related difficulties and other problems clearly benefits the Council where this allows a dignified life and continued independence thanks to subsidised maintenance payments. A non-resident, part-time Warden liaises with the Clerk and Trustees and provides contact for residents for emergencies in particular, but at other times as well.

Achievements: The Charity worked hard to keep residents active and informed throughout the year, to mitigate against isolation. Fortunately, there were no cases of Covid. Residents visited Bude by coach in July while the garden areas allowed the majority of residents safe social contact and enjoyable activity. The resident gardens have never been better! A quarterly newsletter updated residents with appropriate safety advice among other things while 'visiting trustees' contacted residents by telephone. At least one resident benefited from Council support and the services of One Barnstaple.

The future: The Charity continues to invest for the future through a continuous programme of modernisation as properties become void. In 2021, Mr Richard Howe took over from Mr Paul Adams as Chair of the Properties Sub-committee and has initiated a ten-year plan while liaising with a loyal group of tradesmen. The Charity looks forward to letting the fully-refurbished, 16th Century 37 Pilton Street, following advice from the Conservation Officer.

In the present difficult times, it seems to me the Charity continues to play a small but significant role in the housing of people in need. Contact with North Devon Council (through the Pilton District Councillors and Town Councillors) is valuable when reviewing policies and the refurbishment of listed buildings in particular, and also at other times when residents raise issues. I believe it is appropriate that the Council continues to make appointments to the body.

Other: I have confirmed with Cllr Ian Roome that I shall stand down as District Council representative in March 2023.

Allan Cameron

(14 South View, Chaddiford Lane, Barnstaple EX31 1RD)