



Minutes of Environment Committee Meeting of Morecambe Town Council held at Morecambe Town Hall at 18.00 on the ninth day of April 2024

Members present: Councillors Joanne Ainscough (Chair), Dan Blacow, Paul Hart, Clark Kent, Geoff Knight, David Whittaker

In attendance: Luke Trevaskis (Proper Officer), Joel Turner (Finance Officer), Peter Fisher (Communication Officer), Helen Freeborough (Administrative Officer)

Minute EC2324 - 012

Apologies

Apologies received from Cllrs Cozler, Pilling, Rogerson.

Minute EC2324 - 013

Declarations of Interest

Cllr J Ainscough - Member of Lancaster City Council, Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services

Cllr P Hart - Member of Lancaster City Council

Cllr David Whittaker - Member of Lancaster City Council.

Minute EC2324 - 014

Minutes

Minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Minute EC2324 - 015

Public Participation

None.

Minute EC2324 - 016

Noticeboards

To consider the report and agree which style and type of noticeboard the committee would prefer officer to pursue. Members discussed the report outlining various options for noticeboards for the town. It was agreed that physical noticeboards (not digital screens) should be installed in six locations across the

town. Officers have been asked to produce a proposal for the next Environment Committee meeting, to include costings for the production and installation of the noticeboards, details on the size, design and specification of each noticeboard, and timescales to install. Where possible to consider using local suppliers for the installation of the boards.

Minute EC2324 - 017

Community Skip Scheme

The Chief Officer outlined the proposal for a Community Skip Scheme.

Following reports from residents that they either cannot afford the cost of waste disposal, they do not have access to a vehicle capable of transporting large items, or due to age/disability they are unable to dispose of unwanted household items, it has been requested that consideration be given to an annual 'community skip' weekend in different wards across the town. The community skip weekend would be advertised in advance and residents could drop their unwanted household items to an agreed location during this time. Support would be available from the Town Rangers who could assist in the removal/transportation of some items.

Members discussed the scheme, in particular the issue of where to locate the skips, the type and number of items that could be deposited, and the potential problem of fly tipping.

It was agreed by Members that a trial should be carried out in one location, and Poulton Ward was selected for this. Possible locations for the skip were considered including the car park of the Library and somewhere in the Bk Euston Grove area of the town.

Officers have been asked to draft a plan and share this with the Environment Committee for approval, before making any further arrangements for a community skip weekend.

Minute EC2324 - 018

Foamstream

Cllr Ainscough updated Members on the products that the Council would like to use for tackling weeds in the district and confirmed that a demonstration of the Foamstream system is to take place in the coming weeks (Exact date TBC).

The demonstration of this product will be free to the Council.

The location for the demonstration is Ellesmere Road, date to be confirmed.

Minute EC2324 - 019

Land Parcels

Chief Officer updated Members on the Land Parcels project which was previously discussed at the meeting on 21.09.23. Improving these areas and allowing communities to take ownership of the space would be a positive action. The Council has agreed to initially focus on two areas of land - Maryland Square and Mardale Avenue.

Members discussed the actions that could be implemented in each land parcel and there was general agreement that both areas would benefit from some simple actions such as the installation of bird boxes, seating areas, and regular grass cutting. There is a budget of £50,000.00 for this work.

Ahead of any improvements, Officers have drafted a questionnaire to survey residents living in these areas to ask what improvements they would like to see. Members reviewed the draft survey and have asked that it be simplified, removing some of the suggestions such as offering free Wi-Fi. The revised questionnaire will be recirculated to the Environment Committee.

Minute EC2324 - 020

Allotments

Cllr Ainscough update the Committee on a site visit (15.03.24) undertaken by Cllrs J Ainscough and P.Hart, together with Officers L.Trevaskis and P.Fisher, to the Allotment site in the West End.

Whilst it was noted that the Allotment Association has made some improvements at the site (a new disabled toilet), the association has indicated they are experiencing difficulties in managing their paperwork, and officers have agreed to provide additional support.

Cllr Ainscough advised the committee that a district wide appraisal of allotments is currently being carried out by LESS. It was agreed that the Committee would wait for the final appraisal report to be circulated, then reconsider how to address some of the current issues being faced on the allotment site.