

**MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE OVERVIEW AND  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 26 AUGUST  
2008**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Mrs Blackmore (Chairman) and  
Butler, Chittenden, Daley, Field, Mrs Gooch,  
Hinder, Verrall and Yates.

**APOLOGIES:** There were no apologies.

**40. Web- Casting**

**Resolved:** That all items on the agenda be web-cast

**41. Notification of Substitute Members**

There were no substitute Members.

**42. Notification of Visiting Members**

There were no visiting Members.

**43. Disclosures by Members and Officers**

There were none.

**44. Exempt Items**

**Resolved:** That all items on the agenda be taken in public as  
proposed.

**45. Minutes**

Councillor Chittenden asked that it be noted that he had suggested  
the decision to undertake the in depth review of recycling, be  
decided following the completion of the implementation of the new  
recycling scheme.

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meetings held on 7 July 2008  
and 22 July 2008 be agreed as a correct record and  
duly signed by the Chairman

**46. Kent Waste Partnership - Progress**

The Chairman welcomed the Waste Collection Officer, Mr David  
Campbell-Lenaghan and Kent County Council's Behaviour Change  
Programme Manager, Paul Vanston to the meeting. Mr Vanston  
gave a presentation on Kent Waste Partnership's progress (slides

attached at Appendix A). Following a brief introduction from the witnesses regarding recycling in Maidstone, the Committee discussed the following topics:

- The targets and methods of the Kent Joint Waste Management Committee and the difference between this and a Joint Waste Authority;
- The percentage of Kent's waste that is recycled, composted, sent to landfill and used to recover heat, power and other energy sources;
- The makeup of Maidstone's residual waste. This highlighted that paper and card, and organic waste were the two highest categories in Maidstone's residual waste;
- The challenge of garden and food waste, including the consequences of supermarket deals on perishable foods and the possible options of encouraging home-composting or Council collection for composting;
- The difficulties involved in recycling wood;
- The analysis of the profiling of people from Kent. This was used to determine different groups attitudes towards recycling, to enable targeted communication to improve rates of recycling;
- The need for a co-ordinated approach to media regarding recycling;
- The potential for schemes to enable the public to swap or give-away re-useable items; and
- The cause of the international shortage of bins and the impact on the implementation of Maidstone's new recycling scheme.

The Chairmen thanked Mr Vanston and Mr Campbell-Lenaghan for an informative presentation and suggested that the information provided by used to inform the Committee's in-depth recycling review.

The Web cast from this session is available at <http://clients.westminster-digital.co.uk/maidstone/archive.aspx> (00.04.00 to 01.50.00).

**Resolved: That**

- a) the information provided by Mr Vanston and Mr Campbell-Lenaghan be included in the Committee's in-depth recycling review; and
- b) The Waste Collection Officer circulate information regarding the subsidised home composing scheme to the Committee to enable Members to encourage residents to home compost.

**47. Verification of the 'Sustainable Construction Options for the New Depot' Report**

The Chairman welcomed the Economic Development Manager, Mr John Foster, the Property Procurement Manager, Mr David Tibbit, the Corporate Property Manager, Mr Chris Finch and the Director of Tuckers Consultancy Ltd, Mr Adam Blinch to the meeting. Following an introduction from Mr Blinch outlining the conclusions and recommendations of the verification report, the discussion covered a number of topics including:

- The possibility of incorporating Photo Voltaic Solar Cells - Grants were available from the Department of Trade and Industry's Low Carbon Buildings Programme Phase 2, for up to 50% of the cost for installing approved microgeneration technologies;
- The benefits of Photo Voltaic Solar Cells, including the potential to sell back energy to the grid on the two days the depot was not operational;
- The difficulties in securing planning permission for wind turbines at the new depot as the adjacent land's developer had planned to erect residential buildings within 200 metres of the depot; and
- The differing views of TPS and Tuckers regarding rain water harvesting.

The Committee thanked Mr Blinch for an excellent report and considered which sustainable construction options were appropriate.

The Web cast from this session is available at <http://clients.westminster-digital.co.uk/maidstone/archive.aspx> (01.54.25 to 02.27.30).

**Resolved: That the Cabinet be recommended to include the following sustainable construction options for the new depot:**

- Photo Voltaic Solar Cells subject to further investigations and partial grant funding;
- Solar hot water panels and a thermal storage hot water buffer tank;
- Condensing gas boiler;
- Rainwater harvesting;
- Local extract fans with heat recovery units to preheat any 'make up air';
- Zoned PIR controlled lighting
- Air Leakage tests to achieve a rating of less than 5m<sup>3</sup>/hr/m<sup>2</sup>;
- External door vestibules; and
- Rapid opening and closing vehicle doors.

**48. Nominations of Member for Cross-Committee Review of Past Scrutiny Reports**

**Resolved:** That Councillors Mrs Blackmore, Chittenden and Yates be appointed to the cross-committee review of past scrutiny reports.

**49. Future Work Programme 2008-09**

The Overview and Scrutiny Officer discussed the future work programme with the Committee highlighting that an update would be received on litter at the next meeting and that there would be a tour of public conveniences on 15 September. The Committee agreed that Members should carry out their own investigation of litter problems and take photos as appropriate. The Committee discussed whether to reschedule the meeting arranged for 30 December 2008 to 22 December 2008.

**Resolved: That**

- a) Members of the Committee take photos of any problem littering areas to bring to the Committees meeting on 23 September;
- b) Members of the Committee would notify the Overview and Scrutiny Officer if they were able to attend the tour of public conveniences; and
- c) The re-scheduling of the December meeting be added to the agenda for consideration on 23 September.

**50. Duration of the Meeting**

6:35pm to 9.15pm.