

**ENVIRONMENTAL SCRUTINY
 COMMITTEE
 31 JULY 2015**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR C L STRANGE (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors Mrs V C Ayling (Vice-Chairman), A M Austin, C J T H Brewis, A Bridges, M Brookes, J R Marriott, N M Murray, C R Oxby, C Pain and R A Renshaw

Councillors: R G Fairman, A H Turner MBE JP and S M Tweedale attended the meeting and spoke

Officers in attendance:-

Steve Blagg (Democratic Services Officer), Andy Gutherson (County Commissioner for Economy and Place), Richard Leonard (Senior Planning Officer (Waste and Minerals)), Neil McBride (Development Manager), Chris Miller (Countryside Access Manager), Louise Tyers (Scrutiny Officer) and Adrian Winkley (Principal Planning Officer)

16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/REPLACEMENT MEMBER

An apology for absence was received from Executive Councillor C J Davie (Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Environment, Planning, Tourism).

17 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor A M Austin requested that a note should be made in the minutes that she lived close to a proposed waste site (Ref No. WA22-BO Riverside Industrial Estate) (minute 23).

18 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 12 JUNE AND 23 JUNE 2015

RESOLVED

That the minutes of previous meetings of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee held on 12 and 23 June 2015 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to "and City of Lincoln" being added after "University of Lincoln", under No. "1" of the "Officers' responses to comments made by the Committee included" (minute 7).

19 POTENTIAL DISTRICT HEATING SCHEME (MINUTE 7)

Councillor J R Marriott stated that he had read a report in the Lincolnshire Echo newspaper about a proposed solar farm being installed on the former waste site

adjacent to the Energy from Waste plant at North Hykeham and stated that this was a good use of a brown field site. He understood that a planning application had been submitted for this installation to North Kesteven District Council.

Officers confirmed that the County Council would be a statutory consultee for this application as the highway authority. They agreed that this was a suitable site for this type of development.

Councillor R Oxby stated that he was a member of North Kesteven District Council's Planning Committee and was prepared to forward the views of this Committee to their Planning Committee.

There was support by the Committee for this type of development but some members did not read the Echo, did not know the location or geography of the area and therefore urged caution in any comments of support.

Therefore, it was agreed that North Kesteven District Council should be informed that this Committee supports the principle of installing renewable energy developments on the right sites rather than agricultural land.

20 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING, TOURISM AND SENIOR OFFICERS (ECONOMY AND PLACE)

(NOTE: Councillor M Brookes requested that a note should be made in the minutes that he was a member of the Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board as an appointee of Boston Borough Council)

Councillor S M Tweedale did not have any announcements.

The Chairman stated that the proposal to install a wind turbine scheme would not now be proceeding at Nocton Fen and it was noted that the outcome of the appeal against the installation of a wind farm at Hemswill Cliff was awaited.

Officers stated that a report on the outcome of consultations by the Environment Agency on the long term management arrangements for the Black Sluice Pumping Station would be submitted to the Flood and Drainage Management Scrutiny Committee in the Autumn.

21 INGOLDMELLS AND SPALDING SEWAGE TREATMENT WORKS UPDATE

The Committee received a progress report from Brian Kane, Anglian Water, in connection with the latest situation regarding odours from the Ingoldmells and Spalding Sewage Treatment Works.

The Committee also received a tabled paper outlining the comments received from Maggie Boughton, Clerk to Addlethorpe Parish Council, in connection with the Ingoldmells Sewage Treatment Works. She stated that Parish Councillors and local

people had been asked for their views and there had not been much feedback and what feedback had been received indicated that the problems of odour had not been as great as they had been in the past.

Comments by the Committee included:-

1. The reduction in complaints and odour at both plants was welcomed.
2. The report advised that the sewer at Ingoldmells would be able to accommodate an additional 1000 people being connected to the network. However, Members stated that the level of approved housing planned for Skegness would wipe out that additional capacity.
3. Tourism had increased on the east coast.
4. In their comments Addlethorpe Parish Council had mentioned the use of cesspits by some houses. Was it possible for cesspits to affect odour?
5. The importance of educating the public to prevent them from putting unwanted material down the toilet and into the sewer, e.g. grease from retail food outlets.
7. The need for the Committee to visit a sewage plant.
8. Was septicity still a problem at the Spalding Sewage Treatment Works?
9. Did Anglian Water make money from the sale of nitrates?
10. Was Anglian Water aware of the effects of the future growth of housing on infrastructure?

Brian Kane's responses included:-

1. Anglian Water had a campaign of providing education to the public in connection with the disposal of unwanted materials down toilets and the sewerage system and Anglian Water was currently tackling "hot spots".
2. Cesspits at Addlethorpe were not the cause of odour.
3. Septicity was still an issue at the Spalding Sewage Treatment Works and chemical dosing was being used to tackle the problem.
4. Anglian Water sold bio-solids from the process to farmers.
5. Anglian Water had a separate planning department to examine the effects of development on their infrastructure.
6. A series of open days for the public and schools had been reintroduced at Anglian Water's Sewage Treatment Works.

RESOLVED

That Anglian Water submit a further progress report on Ingoldmells and Spalding Sewage Treatment Works in six months time.

22 COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS

The Committee received a report in connection with the role and duties of Lincolnshire County Council in Countryside Access work. Officers stated that following the recent review of staffing structures management responsibility for the service now rested with Environmental Services although highways still had a legal responsibility as rights of way were classified as being part of the highway.

Comments by the Committee included:-

1. Problems of access on the coastal footpath which ran from Horseshoe Point to Humberston following the erection of a notice by the Wild Fowler's Trust.
2. The proposal to install a national coastal footpath was welcomed. It was hoped that the part of the footpath between the North Norfolk and North East Lincolnshire coasts would be in place in 2018.
3. South District Holland Council gave their Members a sum of money to spend on individual projects in their own electoral Wards. Was it possible to use this money to help clear rights of way?
4. The improved relations between the Ramblers and the County Council was welcomed.
5. The coastline on the east coast was subject to erosion. Would the location of the coastal footpath be far enough inland to avoid it disappearing into the sea?
6. Parish Councils, through the Parish Paths Partnership, were the best option for ensuring that grass was cut at the most appropriate time.
7. The RSPB had advised not to mow on the sea banks during the nesting season. This problem could be overcome by mowing earlier in the season.
8. A similar problem to that which existed at Horseshoe Point in the north of the county also existed in the south of the county with the presence of cockle beds.
9. The coastal footpath had major economic potential for the county and would lead to increased visitor numbers, e.g. to Gibraltar Point. Was it proposed to make the coastal footpath wide enough to accommodate cyclists and pushchairs?
10. Erosion of the Viking Way needed to be addressed as this was the main footpath in Lincolnshire.
11. The lack of access from Sea Banks to Frampton Marsh.
12. The RSPB Visitor Centre at Frampton Marsh needed to be publicised as it was an excellent site for bird watching.
13. While it was appreciated that it was not located in the county there was an issue with access from the Wash to north Norfolk in the vicinity of the Sandringham estate.
14. The need to replace rotting timber planking on a right of way in the Swaby area of the Wolds.
15. Some of the footpath waymarker signs were missing in the Wolds and as this was a popular destination for walkers what was the inspection procedure to replace the missing signs?

Officers' responses to the comments included:-

1. Councillor A Bridges was requested to email details of the blockage of the footpath between Horseshoe Point and Humberston to officers.
2. Councillor C L T H Brewis's suggestion to spend some of the allocation of the money given to him by South Holland District Council in his electoral Ward on cutting grass on rights of way was welcomed and he was requested to let officers have the details of the rights of way being proposed to cut so resources could be redirected.
3. Natural England was advised about erosion problems on the east coast and Natural England also worked with the Shoreline Management Plan. Should erosion affect the coastal footpath then what was called "spreading room" would take place with the footpath moving inland.

4. As the coastal footpath would run along the sea bank in some locations landowners with cattle on the sea banks would need to be aware of the presence of walkers.
5. The Environment Agency had responsibility for mowing the sea banks and they were aware of conservation measures.
6. Natural England's duty did not extend beyond installing a coastal footpath and while the County Council could examine cycle usage it only give a steer to Natural England on its proposals.
7. The problems of erosion of the Viking Way and these were being examined.
8. It was hoped to address the problems of right of way access from Seabanks to Frampton Marsh.
9. The procedure for missing footpath waymarker signs was addressed in the report.

The Committee welcomed the report and agreed that countryside access was important for tourism and the local economy especially when the new coastal footpath was established.

RESOLVED

- (a) That the report and comments made by the Committee be noted.
- (b) That a report on progress of the development of the coastal footpath be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

23 PROPOSED MINERAL AND WASTE SITE/AREA ALLOCATIONS FOR THE LINCOLNSHIRE MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN

(NOTE: Councillor A Austin requested that a note should be made in the minutes that she lived approximately 200 metres from the Riverside Industrial estate.

Councillor C L Strange requested that a note should be made in the minutes that his daughter and son-in-law farmed around the south west of the quarry at Swinderby and he would not comment on this site).

The Committee received a report and presentation in connection with proposed mineral and waste site/area allocation for the Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan, which was the second of two documents which comprised the Plan. The report presented the preferred mineral and waste sites and areas proposed for progression through to the Draft Site Locations Development Plan Document. At this stage the selection was provisional as further information was required for some of the mineral sites. On completion, the Draft Site Locations Development Plan Document would be presented to the Executive for consideration and approval prior to being subject to a period of public consultation.

Officers explained the criteria used to select the various sites, the various consultations with the aggregates industry and local authorities.

Comments by the Committee in connection with the waste sites and areas included:-

1. Were the sites chosen in addition to sites which existed already?
2. Was there a policy already in place in which waste had to go to the Energy from Waste plant at North Hykeham?
3. Management of current waste by operators and how many would send waste to the Energy from Waste plant?
4. Kirton Distribution Park site had not been considered suitable and had caused a public outcry when the County Council previously examined proposals to locate a Waste Transfer Station there to supply the Energy from Waste plant. The site was having success in attracting businesses and if a waste site was proposed here then businesses would not come to the site.
5. The Riverside Industrial site was ideal to use for a waste site/area as it already had a County Council Waste Transfer Station and different types of businesses. Was there zoning of the site for businesses?
6. The Wardentree site, Spalding, was huge and just around the corner from the County Council's Waste Transfer Station although it was noted that there had not been any involvement by members of South Holland District Council by their officers in choosing this site.
7. The use of Clay Lakes and Wardentree sites, Spalding, were supported in principle but additional sites needed to be identified in South Holland as this covered a huge area.
8. Was the site on the A16, Grimsby Road, Louth, an extension of the present site?
9. Concern about the proposed site on land to the west of The Reservation, North Kesteven as this was near a recently approved planning application for a hotel development.
10. The proposed site at Envirotyre, Spalding Road, Sutterton was believed to be in the countryside.

A motion moved by Councillor C L T H Brewis, seconded by Councillor M Brookes, that the Executive should be recommended to remove Kirton Distribution Park, from the list of sites identified as future waste sites/areas, was agreed by 10 votes for, 0 votes against and 0 abstentions.

Officers gave a word of caution that if during the consultation process all of the sites were taken out due to local concerns then the Local Plan could not be taken forward. There was a need to bear in mind that there was a need to identify sufficient sites.

Officers' responses to comments in connection with the proposed waste sites/areas included:-

1. With regard to the management of waste at the current time a waste needs assessment and existing waste capacity had been examined and this would act as a benchmark to estimate the likely levels of waste in the future. In the future the amount of waste would increase and therefore there was a need to identify additional capacity. This would lead to the expansion of existing sites and the need for newer sites and then the waste industry could be directed to these sites. Twelve

waste management operations were being examined, including for composting, etc, but no landfill sites were involved.

2. B2 and B8 sites had been identified as suitable for the waste industry.
3. The County Council was aware of the issues at the Kirton Distribution Park site but waste sites were now better managed and had improved considerably compared to the past and there would not be any conflict with other businesses on the site.
4. With regard to the Riverside Industrial Estate discussions had taken place with Boston Borough Council officers about areas for waste management facilities and B2 and B8 sites were suitable. Boston's officers had not identified any plots and had only said that the site was suitable.
5. The Wardentree and Clay Lakes sites had been suggested by South Holland District Council's officers and these had come following a desk top exercise. Both sites were suitable for waste sites and businesses would be directed to these sites.
6. With regard to the shortage of sites in South Holland both the sites detailed in paragraph 5, above, would go out to consultation and it was possible that other sites could be identified.
7. With regard to the A16 Grimsby Road site, Louth, this was not an extension to the present site but as a possible site where development could take place.
8. Further consultations would take place with North Kesteven District Council officers in connection with the proposed waste site on land to the west of The Reservation, Sleaford.
9. A further check would be carried out on the proposed site at Envirotyre, Spalding Road as officers believed it had been identified as industrial land.
10. The Committee was reassured that all of the sites would be examined to ensure that matters such as dust were addressed to avoid sites being bad neighbours.

In connection with the proposed mineral sites, officers stated that since the publication of the report the following amendments had been received:-

- Site MS05-LT (Norton Bottoms) – the eastern boundary had been amended to provide a greater "stand-off" from the village of Stapleford.
- Site MS07-CL (Kettleby Quarry) – had been re-classified as a Preferred Site
- Site MS08-CL (Kettleby Quarry) – had been reduced in area, with the southern part excluded from the site.

Comments by the Committee in connection with the mineral sites identified included:-

1. The need to keep Parish Councils informed of developments.
2. The need to improve the access from the quarry site to the A1084 in connection with the proposed site at Kettleby Quarry, Bigby and also the need to examine landscaping at this site as it was in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Officers stated that landscaping was covered in the Core Strategy.

RESOLVED

(a) That the preferred mineral sites for inclusion in the Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Draft Site Locations Development Plan Document currently being prepared for public consultation which is expected to commence in Autumn 2015, be endorsed, subject to the following amendments being noted:-

- Site MS05-LT (Norton Bottoms) – the eastern boundary had been amended to provide a greater "stand-off" from the village of Stapleford.
- Site MS07-CL (Kettleby Quarry) – had been re-classified as a Preferred Site
- Site MS08-CL (Kettleby Quarry) – had been reduced in area, with the southern part excluded from the site.

(b) That the preferred waste sites and areas for inclusion in the Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Draft Site Locations Development Plan Document currently being prepared for public consultation, be endorsed, subject to the Executive being recommended to remove Kirton Distribution Park, from the list of sites identified as future waste sites/areas.

(c) That the Development Manager be authorised, in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, to make changes to the preferred sites prior to consideration by the Executive where this is necessary to amend any errors, or where a proponent of a site fails to provide the verification/clarification details currently being sought.

24 ESTABLISHMENT OF WASTE WORKING GROUP

Because of the limited time available to consider the report in connection with the establishment of a Waste Working Group, it was –

RESOLVED

That consideration of the report be deferred to the next meeting.

25 ENVIRONMENTAL SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee received a report on its Work Programme. The Committee was reminded to suggest items for future agendas.

RESOLVED

That the Work Programme be noted and updated accordingly.

The meeting closed at 1.05 pm