

Chief Executive's Office

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Date: 22 August 2005

Chorley
Borough Council

Town Hall
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Chorley
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PR7 1DP

Chief Executive:
Jeffrey W Davies MA LLM

Dear Councillor

A meeting of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Panel is to be held in the Committee Room, Town Hall, Chorley on Thursday, 1st September, 2005 commencing at 6.30 pm.

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for absence**

2. **Declarations of Any Interests**

Members of the Panel are reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Members Code of Conduct. If the personal interest is a prejudicial interest, then the individual Member should not participate in a discussion on the matter and must withdraw from the Council Chamber and not seek to influence a decision on the matter.

3. **Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)**

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 9 June 2005 (enclosed)

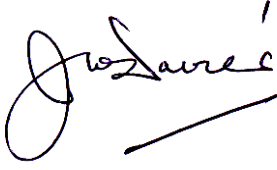
4. **Accessibility of Cycling as a Leisure Pursuit**

As part of the Panel's ongoing Inquiry, Mr Michael Prescott from the 'Cycling Touring Club (CTC) Right to Ride Network' has been invited to attend the meeting to provide evidence within the Inquiry's Terms of Reference.

5. **Any other item(s) that the Chair decides is/are urgent**

Continued....

Yours sincerely



Chief Executive

Distribution

1. Agenda and reports to all Members of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Councillor McGowan (Chair), Councillors D Dickinson, T Gray, Caunce, Heaton, Iddon, R Lees, M Lowe, Livesey and S Smith) for attendance.
2. Agenda and reports to Executive Leader (Councillor J Wilson) Deputy Leader (Councillor Edgerley) Leader of Conservative Group (Councillor P Goldsworthy), Leader of Liberal Democrat Group (Councillor K Ball) and Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Councillor J Walker) for information.
3. Agenda to all remaining Chief officers for information
4. Agenda to all remaining Members of the Council for information.

This information can be made available to you in larger print or on audio tape, or translated into your own language. Please telephone 01257 515118 to access this service.

આ માહિતીનો અનુવાદ આપની પોતાની ભાષામાં કરી શકાય છે. આ સેવા સરળતાથી મેળવવા માટે કૃપા કરી, આ નંબર પર ફોન કરો: 01257 515822

ان معلومات کا ترجمہ آپ کی اپنی زبان میں بھی کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ یہ خدمت استعمال کرنے کیلئے براہ مہربانی اس نمبر پر ٹیلیفون

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کہئے:

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

9 June 2005

Present: Councillor McGowan (Chair), Councillors T Gray, R Lees and Livesey

05.ENV.13 WELCOME BY CHAIR

The Chair thanked the former Chair of the Panel Councillor Brownlee for her contribution to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel and welcomed those members new to the Panel

05.ENV.14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Counce, David Dickinson, Heaton, Miss Iddon, M Lowe and S Smith.

05.ENV.15 DECLARATION OF ANY INTEREST

No Member declared an interest in relation to matters under consideration at the meeting.

05.ENV.16 MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 17 March 2005 be confirmed as a correct record.

05.ENV.17 ACCESSIBILITY OF CYCLING AS A LEISURE PURSUIT

The Chair introduced Hazel Gannaway, The Ranger for the West Pennine Moors (West) who had been invited to provide evidence that would assist the inquiry into the 'accessibility of cycling as a leisure pursuit'.

She explained that she was not aware of any reports received relating to complaints of poor behaviour, but it may be that people are unaware of who to report complaints to, or where.

User groups such as horse riders have commented on the fast speed by some cyclists passing horses on bridleways.

Some routes around Rivington have suffered from erosion created by mountain bikes.

A visitors survey was likely to occur in the near future to obtain the numbers coming into the Rivington area as well as receiving their views on how the area is managed.

Set out below is a brief summary of cycling in the Rivington area.

- There is an extensive network of bridleways in the Rivington area offering the opportunity for cyclists to explore the area.
- Great House Information Centre is open Wed - Sun (and Bank Holidays) 10.30am - 4.30pm and receives very few complaints about cyclists behaviour.

- GHIC stocks maps and publications on cycle routes in the area and beyond and the staff offer advice on routes.
- As a Ranger for the area she had spoken to cyclists on numerous occasions for either being on a footpath rather than a bridleway or for cycling in a discourteous manner when near to other site visitors.
- The cycling events for the Commonwealth Games were held in this area, cyclists regularly request details of this route from GHIC or take it upon themselves to cycle it despite the fact some of the route used footpaths not bridleways. Two photos circulated showed an area of erosion from cycles. There is also a section of cut fence further on this track and others in the area, I do not know who has cut the fences but have seen cyclists making use of the gaps.
- Cyclists have created ramps and jumps in woodland areas.
- Some requests have been received for cycling events in the area but in comparison with other activities eg runs, walks and horse riders the number of requests are low. Again some request areas that are on footpaths so consent is not granted.

05.ENV18 REVIEW OF GRASS CUTTING INQUIRY RECOMMENDATIONS

The Panel received from the Head of Public Space Services the progress made on the implementation of the Panels recommendations following the inquiry into the performance of the Council's Grass Cutting Service.

The Panel considered the progress on each of the ten recommendations that had been approved by the Executive Cabinet at its meeting held on 11 July 2005.

RESOLVED - 1) That the report be noted.

2) That the Panel welcomes the improvement in the Council's grass cutting service.

05.ENV19 REVIEW OF FLOODING, FLOOD PREVENTION AND CONTINGENCY INQUIRY RECOMMENDATION

The Panel received from the Head of Public Space Services the progress made on the implementation of the Panel's recommendation following the inquiry into the review of flooding, flood prevention and contingency.

The Panel considered the progress on each of the eighteen recommendations that had been approved by the Executive Cabinet at its meeting held on 13 May 2004.

RESOLVED - 1) That the report be noted.

2) That the Panel welcomed the progress made on implementing the Panel's recommendations.

05.ENV20 ENHANCED RECYCLING SCHEME

The Head of Environmental Services submitted a report on the progress made on the implementation of the Enhance Recycling Scheme.

The Scheme started on 18 April 2005 with collections for phase 1 and this report outlined a brief position statement.

A total of 23,860 households had now moved to the Scheme with the second and final phase, a total of 17,754 households, moving to the new service on or after the 22 June.

A preliminary analysis of the recycling rate for May showed an increase over the long term monthly averages as follows:

Paper 21% increase from 169 to 204 tonnes
Glass 69% increase from 80 to 135 tonnes

Giving a predicted annual recycle tonnage of

Paper 2,450 tonnes (2025)
Glass 1,660 tonnes (960)

The tonnages of cans/plastics and cardboard are all new recycle tonnages

Plastics/Can 53 tonnes
Cardboard 35 tonnes

Giving a predicted annual recycle tonnage of

Plastics/cans 900 tonnes
Cardboard 650 tonnes

All this represents a recycling rate of around 40% for this period. These were preliminary estimates based on a very small data.

As expected the Scheme had in a number of instances where the standard Scheme, scheme design had not delivered acceptable routes mainly in multi occupied developments and rural and difficult access properties.

A number of anticipated problems had not really materialised, such as an increase in side/extra/fly tipped waste concluding that a great majority of householders who recycle can manage easily with a fortnightly collection of 240 litres.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

05.ENV.21 THE COUNCIL'S TIMESCALE OF MEETINGS FOR 2005/06

The Chair expressed his concern at the number of meetings in the Council's Timetable of Meetings for 2005/06 and the time required by officers attending meetings. He would rather see quality rather than quantity of work and that the business of the Panel should keep to the schedule meetings.

05.ENV.22 BUSINESS PLANS UPDATE TO THE YEAR END (2004/05)

The Panel received the year end for 2004/05 update of the Business Plans relating to Environmental Services, Public Space Services and Planning Services whose remit and area are the responsibility of the Panel.

RESOLVED - That the Business Plans and comments received be noted.

05.ENV.23 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2005/06

The Panel received the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme and discussed the items for the Environment Panel.

RESOLVED - That the Overview and Scrutiny Work programme be noted.

Chair