

ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

17 February 2005

Present: Councillor Brownlee (Chair), Councillors: Counce, David Dickinson, Heaton, R Lees, Livesey and Parr.

05.ENV.03 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor D Gee and Miss Iddon.

05.ENC.04 MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meetings of the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Panel held on 17 November 2004 (Special Meeting) and 26 January 2005 (Special Meeting) be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

05.ENV.05 GRASS CUTTING INQUIRY

The Chair informed the Panel that the Executive Cabinet at its meeting held on 11 January 2005 had accepted the recommendations of the Panel's inquiry into the Council's grass cutting service.

RESOLVED – That the Panel receives at its first meeting of the Municipal Year a monitoring report.

05.ENV.06 CHORLEY BOROUGH RENEWABLE ENERGY STUDY

The Panel received a report of the Head of Planning Services informing Members of the Renewable Energy Study that the Council was taking forward in partnership with renewablesnorthwest, sustainability northwest and the Government Office for the North West. The Authority had been approached by renewablesnorthwest and sustainability northwest to undertake a pilot study to both promote renewable energy and to ascertain the potential for renewable energy schemes within Chorley Borough.

The report indicated that two workshops were planned in the Spring of 2005 in which it was hoped a wide range of people would attend including Councillors.

RESOLVED – That the Panel receives at the first meeting of the Municipal Year a report on the feedback from the study.

05.ENV.07 ACCESSIBILITY OF CYCLING AS A LEISURE PURSUIT

The Panel's instructions were requested on a strategy to progress the Panels inquiry into 'Accessibility of Cycling as a Leisure Pursuit'.

Members received a number of documents produced for their information as well as providing documentary evidence to assist the inquiry.

In order for the Panel to progress the inquiry contact should be made with the representatives of the undermentioned user groups to establish from their perspective what they consider are the issues which effect them:

Cyclists.
Walkers.
Horse Riders.
Mountain bike users.
Rivington Recreational Management Zone Advisory Committee.
Yarrow Valley User Group.

The Groups be requested as to whether they wish to attend a future meeting of this Panel or whether they would prefer representatives from this Panel to meet them.

Problems can be identified, with the Groups such as:

- Signage.
- Code of Conducts, for users.
- What are the problems of current cycle routes eg bottlenecks.
- More cycle routes and what suggestions.
- Publicity for cycling routes.
- Lack of publicity in general.

The following issues to be established:

- i) Definition of a bridleway.
- ii) Use of canals for cycling (permissive cycling).
- iii) Map of all footpaths and bridleways in Chorley.

Members to visit shops etc to establish what literature, as well as maps, available on cycling.

Chair