

City of Durham Parish Council

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Clayport Library
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DH1 1WA

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21st August 2019

Dear Councillor,

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972 I hereby give you notice that a **MEETING** of the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** will be held in **ROOM 2, ALINGTON HOUSE, 4 NORTH BAILEY, DURHAM DH1 3ET** on **27th AUGUST 2019 AT 14:00** to transact the following business: -

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS**
- 3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 16th JULY 2019.**
- 4. MATTERS ARISING**
- 5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.**
- 6. PROPOSAL TO CARRY OUT TREE PLANTING AT THE SANDS**
- 7. DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE PRIORITIES,**
 - i) Update on Good Neighbour scheme**
 - ii) Update on Clean and Green tasks** (see report included)
 - iii) Involving young people**
 - a. Terracycle project**
 - b. Environment training for teachers in the City of Durham Parish**
 - iv) A167 – Working Group update**
- 11. AOB** (Please note for discussion only, not decision making)
- 12. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS.**

And pursuant to the provisions of the above-named act, I Hereby Summon You to attend the said meeting.

Adam Shanley
Clerk City of Durham Parish Council

CITY OF DURHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Committee held on 16th July 2019 at 17:30 in Office 2, Clayport library building, Durham. DH1 1WA

Present: Councillors V Ashfield (Chair), E Ashby, J Atkinson, L Brown, D Freeman and M Ross.

Also present: Parish Clerk A Shanley and Lee Mowbray and Peter Broxton (DCC Highways Officers).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J Elmer

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

None received

3. DISCUSSION WITH LEE MOWBRAY, DCC OFFICER ON MARKET TRADER CAR PARKING.

The Chair welcomed Lee Mowbray and Peter Broxton, Highways Officers at Durham County Council who were attending the meeting to discuss the issue of the ongoing consultation for the Market Trader Permit Holder only car parking bays at Providence Row.

Mr Mowbray began by outlining the details of the consultation, advising that Durham County Council were seeking to have 10 bays installed for Market Traders only with permits on a Saturday between 6am and 10am.

Mr Mowbray advised that this is needed due to the proposed closure of the Sands carpark. Mr Mowbray advised that he understood that the Sands carpark would be closing from 9th August and there is a need to locate an alternative carparking area for the traders, particularly those with high sided vehicles.

Mr Mowbray advised that any trader wishing to park their vehicle at the proposed bays would firstly be required to receive a permit, which would be handed out and managed by the Durham Markets Company. These would be handed out upon arrival and would need to be returned to the Market Company once trading ceased for the day.

Mr Mowbray advised that the proposed area of Providence Row is the closest open-air carparking space to the marketplace that DCC is able to offer the traders. The Chair advised that this was too far away and she had received representation from one of the outdoor traders to advise that this would cause her further difficulty on market days.

The Chair expressed concern at the fact that the bays would only be available to the traders on a Saturday when the market actually took place on at least two other days per month – once for the Full moon market and the other for the Farmers' Market. Mr Mowbray advised that the parking order would become extremely complex if it were specific days throughout the month and could lead to confusion if not on a consistent day of the week.

Cllr M Ross asked whether it would be possible for the traders to have a permit they could retain in the same way the visitor parking permits operate at present

in Durham. Mr Mowbray advised that this be the long-term mode of operation for the permits.

Several Members of the Committee expressed concern at the timing of the closure of the Sands and in particular the lack of notification on this as well as the fact that the parking order for the market traders permit parking would not be in place in time for the closure coming into effect. Mr Mowbray advised that he would check on the timing of the closure.

Cllr D Freeman advised that he had not been made aware of the Sands carpark closure as the local County Councillor for the area.

The Chair asked whether the County Council could provide parking spaces at Fowler's Yard as an alternative. Mr Mowbray advised that he would look into this as a possibility but parking restrictions had recently been put in place at Fowler's Yard.

Cllr E Ashby advised that a long-term solution to the issue of market trader parking may be to allow the traders use of the new Durham Sixth Form carpark on a market day.

Mr Mowbray advised that he would take all feedback away with him. The Chair thanked both Mr Mowbray and Mr Broxton for coming along to speak to the Committee.

Both Mr Mowbray and Mr Broxton left the meeting at this stage.

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 18th JUNE 2019.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18th June were accepted as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

5. MATTERS ARISING

None received

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

None received

7. ENVIRONMENT AWARDS 2019

Members considered the report provided on this issue for the meeting and considered whether to nominate any individuals or groups for such an award. The Committee resolved to respond to the request for nominations by stating that they would be happy to consider nominations for 2020, however they would expect that all sponsors of the Awards operated in accordance with the Parish Council's own Environment and Sustainability Policy.

8. DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE PRIORITIES,

i) Update on Good Neighbour scheme

The Clerk and Cllr E Ashby advised that they had heard no further from Charlie at the DSU on this. The Clerk advised that he would chase this.

ii) Update on Clean and Green tasks

The Clerk reminded Members that the Parish Council had agreed to become a partner with Durham in Bloom and to finance a flower exhibit for 2019. The Clerk advised that the Bishop's mitre flower display had now been installed in the Marketplace and was attracting a lot of public attention.

The Chair advised that the Environment Committee had negotiated with DCC to tidy up land at Highgate and potentially turn the area into sensory garden/park. The Parish Council would need to maintain the upkeep of this land in future years. The Clerk reported that at present nothing had been done about this and he would be contacting DCC about this.

The Chair reported that she and Cllr M Ross had established liaison with local secondary schools (primary schools to follow) to investigate the ways in which pupils can influence our proposed programme and support our environmental activities, (e.g. by litter picking, improving flower beds etc). The Clerk advised that £500 was allocated in the budget for this priority.

The Clerk reminded Members that an award for the best kept business frontage, including a competition for the best Christmas display by independent businesses; chains stores; indoor market stalls; non-retail units was agreed by Full Council together with an Award ceremony. The Clerk reported that he would be working with Cllr J Atkinson to arrange the event for this year and advertising would start on this from the end of September.

The Chair reported that DCC had offered free plats for replanting the gardens in front of The Sands flats in conjunction with Durham Sixth Form Centre students. However, no reply had been received from the student contact at the Sixth Form Centre. It was agreed that the Clerk should investigate further when the plants could be dropped off and the tools received to carry out the planting and members of the Environment Committee could do this. Once a date for this is organised, the Clerk would then contact the Housing Association 'Believe' who had offered the tools for this.

The Clerk confirmed that the new Neighbourhood Warden had began her post and he had a meeting at the AAP Board this evening (16th July) where it is hoped that additional funding could be secured for a more enhanced service.

Some deliberation took place regarding the priority of contracting the services of a local "handyperson" to carry out tasks on behalf of the Parish Council in the parish area. The Clerk advised that he had received a quotation from the County Council for the following: litter picking on road sides and riverbanks; washing street signs and highways signs; possibly also street weed control. The Clerk advised that he had received advice that an SLA with the current provider of these sorts of services, i.e. the County Council was definitely the easiest and cheapest option, given the number of insurances and licenses required for even litter picking.

Cllr E Ashby asked whether painting and manual tasks such as woodwork could also fall under this SLA. The Clerk advised that he would look into this further with the Clean and Green team at DCC.

The Clerk also advised that the deep clean and treatment of North Road from Neville's street to the North Road end of Framwellgate bridge was now complete and was looking excellent. The Clerk asked if Members knew of any traders on North Road willing to give a quote for a press release to get in touch with him.

Cllr E Ashby also reported on the bike racks/ flower tubs to state this was on hold as the design of these may have changed since last discussed.

The Clerk also reminded Members that the costs for 5000 units of the cigarette butts had been agreed by Full Council and he would be working on the design for these. Cllr M Ross advised that she would be happy to work with the Clerk on this.

iii) Involving young people

Cllr M Ross reported that she and the Clerk had met with a representative of the DCC's transport team and the cost for the proposal to subsidise some bus routes was extremely expensive and not something the Parish Council would be able to take on.

The Committee considered other proposals to involve young people and it was agreed to investigate further the work of Terracycle, an organisation which involves local schools in recycling projects. The Clerk reminded Members that £5,500 was allocated to this priority and he would investigate the company further.

iv) A167 – Working Group update

Cllr E Ashby presented a programme of works following the first meeting of the A167 Working Party, which involved Cllr E Ashby, Cllr L Brown, the Clerk and Amy Mycock from OASES. A further meeting to look further into the proposals is to be arranged and to involve local Residents Groups.

9. AOB

The Clerk reported that DCC had recently launched a pledge campaign to pledge to cut out on single use plastics. The Committee agreed to sign this pledge.

10. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS.

The next meeting was agreed at 2pm on 27th August.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked Members for their attendance and closed the meeting.

Signed,

Chair City of Durham Parish Council Environment Committee.

ITEM 7 (ii): Update on Clean and Green tasks

Proactive, more of the things we like:

Agreed action	Cost (pa)
We have become a partner with Durham in Bloom and have contracted to finance a flower exhibit for 2019.	£2,500
We are planning to provide floral panels in Millennium place in 2020.	(2020)
We are looking to provide some bike racks/ flower tubs in Walkergate, below Milburngate Bridge opposite the back of the Indoor Market;	£1,500
We have negotiated with DCC to tidy up land at Highgate and potentially turn the area into sensory garden/park. We will maintain the upkeep of this land in future years.	Cost-free this year Maintenance costs in future years
We have established liaison with local secondary schools (primary schools to follow) to investigate the ways in which pupils can influence our proposed programme and support our environmental activities, (e.g. by litter picking, improving flower beds etc).	£500 for first project
Replanting of gardens in front of The Sands flats in conjunction with Durham Sixth Form Centre students	TBC

Reactive, remove / reduce some of the things we don't like.

Agreed Action	Cost (pa)
We have agreed to contract an Environmental Enforcement Officer with statutory powers to issue fines to individuals and businesses which contravene environmental laws, e.g. litter, abandoned rubbish bins, dog fouling and dangerous parking;	£5,000 recurring annually (plus grant requested from AAP of £5,000)
We are seeking to enter into an SLA with DCC for a certain number of hours per month to improve the physical environment of our Parish by litter picking on road sides and riverbanks; washing street signs and highways signs; possibly also some other handy jobs such as painting.	Approx £2,500
We have completed works on North Road to deep-clean and treat the pavement from Neville's Street to the North Road-end of Framwellgate Bridge.	£14,500

ITEM 7 (ii): Update on Clean and Green tasks – continued.

Feedback from Councillors and local residents on Clean and Green priority re: DCC SLA and the things they'd like to see:

- Although one or 2 premises have recently started to sweep their frontages there is an ongoing problem about cigarette ends and general small bits of litter between Leazes Place and Lower Claypath, often a real eyesore at the weekends. It just needs a brush running down say twice a week. (See attached pic of Kirsty Thomas and me one Sunday morning before tourists started arriving on Monday.)
- I need to do a slow drive round the NX ward to check where there are signs that are greened by overhanging trees e.g. above County Hall opposite the hospital, maybe Red Hills Lane and bottom of Western Hill.
- DCC used to sweep the gutters in Leazes Place (much photographed by visitors and mentioned by Pevsner) but now I do it. There may be other similar heritage streets and corners needing attention.
- Cllr Scott has approached DCC to update Neville's Cross A167 safety barrier but until any work is agreed it could certainly do with a good wash.
- The immediate hot spot for me re litter is behind Renny Street as the bins overflow. Often the dustmen leave litter on the road when emptying the big bins at New Kepier Court (Tuesday mornings).
- An area I walk through, but maybe is too much a back yard to be seriously considered, is the end of Fowler's Yard. It could be a pleasant area to sit in, if the bins were kept to one side (behind a fence), all the litter cleared away and some planting done.
- The blue footbridges over the A167 are very slippery with the growth of moss and algae. They need cleaning.
- The footpath/cutting under the railway down from Redhills Lane to Holly/Mistletoe streets are littered and the railway embankment itself, behind the railings here, is covered in litter and is a real eyesore which only attracts more junk.
- Other litter cleaning needed:
 - the west side of A167 from the Duke of Wellington to Neville's Cross
 - bottom of Neville's Cross Bank around the Stonebridge roundabout
 - the path from Toll House Road down to the River Browney/Baxter Wood Farm
- The growth of greenery encroaching on Grape Lane leading up to the Peth needs to be cut back.

ITEM 7 (iii): Involving young people - Terracycle project

Councillors are reminded that the proposal to subsidise youth transport as part of the Environment Committee's priorities was scrapped due to the overwhelming cost of such a scheme.

At the last Environment Committee meeting, Members agreed to investigate the idea of setting up a recycling project with local schools in the Parish area through an organisation called Terracycle.

TerraCycle is a recycling company which recycles typically hard-to-recycle waste.

Terracycle have a paid for solution in the form of Zero Waste Boxes - the price of each box includes the cost of Terracycle shipping the empty box to the school, a pre-paid shipping label (via UPS) so this can be sent back once full and the major cost which is to recycle all the otherwise non-recyclable material (as council systems won't accept it) is sent back in the box.

TerraCycle's Zero Waste Box™ platform allows the user to recycle almost any type of waste, from coffee capsules to complex laboratory waste. The school would be required to simply choose the waste stream they'd like to recycle, the Parish Council would then purchase the preferred box size and the school would collect the waste and send it to TerraCycle to be repurposed (shipping is included in the cost). The boxes come in the following sizes:

Small / 25x25x46cm / approx. 759 units of waste - £121.25

Medium / 30.5x30.5x84cm / approx. 2064 units of waste - £156.34

Large / 38x38x100cm / approx. 3815 units of waste - £240.07

WHAT IS THE ZERO WASTE BOX™?

The Zero Waste Box was developed by TerraCycle® to provide the first-ever comprehensive recycling solution for everyday consumer waste. With over 70 different boxes to choose from, you're sure to find one that fits your needs.

ACCEPTED WASTE

- Small plastic or metal discarded office supplies: pens, pencils, pencil sharpeners, staplers, hole punchers, clips and clamps
- Other small supplies: disposable and reusable tape dispensers, glue sticks, rubber stamps, correction fluid bottles, and other correction supplies
- Archive and organizing supplies: plastic file dividers, plastic folders, file pockets, business cards holders, binders, discarded backing from sticker and label sheets

HOW IT WORKS

1. **SELECT** | Choose the box size and category that best fits your needs
2. **COLLECT** | Fill your box with the accepted waste streams (listed above)
3. **RECYCLE** | Using the pre-paid UPS® shipping label (included in your purchase), send your filled box to TerraCycle for recycling.

WHAT IS INCLUDED

- Zero Waste Box (used for collecting and shipping)
- Pre-paid return shipping label (affixed to your Box)
- Complete processing and recycling of the waste.
- Customer Support service to address any questions or concerns you may have

UNACCEPTED WASTE

- Office e-waste, like electronic staplers and label making machines
- **Hazardous waste (sharp, flammable, reactive, corrosive, ignitable, toxic, infectious or pathogenic) which presents a danger to the environment, or to people.**

Please do not include (non-exhaustive list):

- Batteries
- Pressurized canisters
- Broken glass
- Medical waste

Some waste not accepted in the box, such as cardboard, food waste or glass, can be recycled through your local council. Please inquire with them before throwing them in the trash.

DECISION REQUIRED	For Members to decide whether they wish to participate in the Terracycle scheme for the Parish and to request that the Clerk write to all the local schools in the Parish and invite them to participate.
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ITEM 7 (iii): Involving young people - Environment training for teachers in the City of Durham Parish

Councillors are asked to consider a proposal that the Parish Council writes to all schools in the Parish Area to ask them if they'd like to participate in a UN-accredited climate change teaching course, known as EduCCate Global.

This is an online course for teachers which in total takes 15-20 hours to complete and covers areas such as climate change science, adaptation planning, health, forests, climate change finance and international negotiations.

All the learning materials on the UN CC: e-Learn platform are free of charge and, if all schools are amenable to the proposal, having a UN-accredited climate change teacher in every school could mean that all schoolchildren will be given accurate, relevant information on the causes and effects of global heating.

A number of schools in neighbouring Local Education Authority areas are already participating in the scheme. Once you have completed and passed all required evaluations of the course, they will receive a certificate from the United Nations.

The Clerk has already had a preliminary discussion with the creators of the scheme (Harwood Education) who would be willing to support the Parish Council in encouraging the schools to participate. The scheme itself has over 3,000 schools currently participating, though none of these are in the City of Durham Parish Area.

DECISION REQUIRED	For Members to decide whether they wish to promote the EduCCate Global scheme to schools within the Parish and to request that the Clerk write to all the local schools in the Parish and invite them to participate.
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