

NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the Environmental Working Group held on
Wednesday 20 May 2015 at 10 am at The Bungalow Newbiggin by-the-Sea.

PRESENT: Councillors:
M Cholerton M Peden W Rogers
Officer: D Earl – Town Clerk
Also present: NCC - 3 Neighbourhood Services Officers

EWG01/15 ENHANCED SERVICES 2015

The Neighbourhood Services Manager updated the meeting on staff matters for Newbiggin and management cover for sickness absence. Some areas were known to be in poor condition and would be brought up to standard.

Promenade weed spraying was complete and bus shelter cleaning underway. Paint had been ordered and it was agreed that town centre seats needed first attention this year ahead of the bus shelter programme. The sign post on the Pant Road and handrails at Horseshoe steps would also be included in the painting works.

The new verge planting was to be completed at Woodhorn Road ahead of the judging for Northumbria In Bloom and some weeding was required in the area. The Town Clerk would forward a schedule of the bus shelter assets and priority work before going on leave.

Members needed to decide how to apply the under-spend from last year and it was suggested that overtime working could be done to increase the work on prominent sites ahead of the summer. Additional costs would be at one and a half normal rates or twice if on a Sunday. The issue of cover for the Summer Saturday Bandstand Music Events was raised.

It was highlighted that the lamppost replacement programme could result in the loss of a number of litter bins that may have to be replaced by ground fixed bins and a litter hot spot review was necessary. NS Manager would seek clarification from the Street Lighting Division.

Complaints regarding floral tributes on public seats were discussed and a review of policy was being carried out at NCC. Further consideration required when that policy was adopted.

AGREED: that the above matters proceed and the Town Clerk confirms the priority works for early spring.

EWG02/15 EVENTS

Clarification was requested regarding events that may be carried out particularly in the Quay Wall Piazza area and on land controlled by NCC. Amanda Cryer advised that all events irrespective of size had to be approved through the County's formal process and the Events Notice could be downloaded from the

web site for submission to NCC. Various officers on the Safety Advisory Group would be consulted before approval was considered. Public Liability insurance would have to be in place.

EWG03/15 WOODLAND AREA CLEANSING

Members had inspected the large woodland area between East Lea and the Colliery Allotment site and noted the significant volumes of litter and tipping. Councillor Peden and the Town Clerk had met with Mike Jeffries the Woodlands Manager and an initial clean up would take place shortly and the site included for winter work when vegetation had died back to give access for a deeper clean up. Covert enforcement visits would also be considered to deter future problems. The area was a significant asset and needed to be more accessible to the general public.

EWG04/15 ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

Neighbourhood Services agreed to provide the infill and top soil for the Half Pit Wheel Project with the plinth and installation to be carried out by Straughans as previously agreed.

Councillor Peden and The Town Clerk had met with Russell Mason from NCC Highways and the works to the pillars at Horseshoe Steps had been agreed. These would be carried out by Smith & Son to include the reinstatement of a wrought iron arch. The planting scheme would be undertaken following on from Atlee Park and suitable colourful plants had been identified.

A potential genealogy project involved the location of storyboards at a number of sites around the bay on land owned and managed by NCC and consent was sought to authorise the signage with the possibility of expansion around the town in future years. Some could be in highway locations and NCC was developing a policy for such signage. A formal request by e-mail would progress the matter.

Atlee Park Play Area refurbishment and installation works were ordered and the location of the new Spider Net would require additional excavation at a cost of £1,000. Members considered that this needed to proceed immediately and that the additional cost should come from the Repairs Budget. Sand level works were still required for the wet pour area under the tyre swing and removal from other areas after completion of the scheme. The sleeper planters were being installed by Smith & Sons who would also install the two new public seats as well as the two for Beach Terrace and Milburn Park replacement.

It had been observed that recent vandalism had occurred at the Skate Park with the removal of two sections of metal railings and a litterbin burnt out. To be referred to Colin Green/Smith & Sons for immediate repair.

AGREED: that the above projects are progressed as soon as possible.