

## **NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA TOWN COUNCIL**

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Environmental Working Group held on Wednesday 08 July 2015 at 11:30 am at The Bungalow Newbiggin by-the-Sea.**

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

### **EWG05/15 ENHANCED SERVICES 2015**

Neighbourhood Services confirmed the progress with the enhanced services works schedule previously submitted by the Town Clerk with seat (22) and litterbin (10) painting progressing on the promenade and bus shelters to be commenced as were town centre seats. In view of the impending visit by the judges for Northumbria in Bloom it was agreed to concentrate on those areas that would impact on the competition. Weeding in Memorial Park and the floral planting for Woodhorn Road in particular needed attention. The Town Clerk would advise Neighbourhood Services of the date of the judges' visit to Newbiggin. This was subsequently confirmed to be Thursday 16 July.

Recent weed spraying in Newbiggin had not been fully successful and the contractor would return to re-spray some areas to complete the work.

The problems with litterbin emptying were referred to and Neighbourhood Services confirmed that the collection vehicle had been present along the promenade at the appropriate times. It was felt that the smaller bins that had to be emptied by hand may have been the main problem and it was stressed that full information including dates and times would be required for future investigations and comparison with the vehicle tracking system.

The project to increase capacity again with additional wheelie bins in strategic places between Haven View and the Maritime Centre was underway and the posts were being fabricated and galvanized by Morpeth Welding. Two smaller bins were being replaced at the Quay Wall and it was hoped that this would solve the problem of overspill. This would be monitored over the school holiday period and if necessary some weekend overtime could be tried to make sure that everything was tidy at busy weekends in particular.

**AGREED: that immediate priority be given to works impacting on the Northumbria in Bloom judging.**

### **EWG06/15 SAND PROBLEMS**

Neighbourhood Services reported that the tractor had been used to ease the removal of wind-blown sand from the promenade but it was stated that removal from the car park was not possible when there were parked cars present.

A long term solution for re-profiling the sand at the north of the bay was still awaited from the County Council who were seeking environmental consents.

#### **EWG07/15 GRASS CUTTING**

It was generally felt that the current grass cutting was satisfactory in the town. Neighbourhood services was trying to get this work all done in one day by drafting in an extra team from Blyth.

#### **EWG08/15 ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS**

Neighbourhood Services felt that the Half Pit Wheel Project was a Highways Services matter despite what had been promised as a contribution last year. The Town Clerk confirmed the scheme was approved from a highways perspective following a site meeting with RM. Efforts were required to progress the scheme.

The four new public seats were still to be installed and CG would be meeting the contractor the following day.

Regarding the Horseshoe Steps planting scheme CG had been let down by the contractor but would progress matters as soon as possible. Councillor Peden had progressed matters with Smiths regarding the pillars and arch.

Requests for an environmental clearance scheme had been passed to Neighbourhood Services by the Scouts Group and Councillor Simpson regarding the land enclosed by palisade fencing near the scout hut and they sought permission to temporarily remove the fencing for access. It was stressed that the area was very difficult to access in view of the steepness to the burn but there was a large accumulation of rubbish over many years and ownership of the land had not yet been established. Neighbourhood Services would seek estimates for the work.

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