

NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the Environmental Working Group held on Wednesday
15 July 2015 at 11:00 am at The Bungalow Newbiggin by-the-Sea.

PRESENT: Councillors:
M Cholerton W Rogers
Officer: D Earl – Town Clerk
Apology from Councillor Peden

EWG09/15 MINUTES the minutes of the previous meeting on 08 July were confirmed as a correct record

EWG10/15 ENHANCED SERVICES 2015

The Members noted progress with the town environment and work to support the Northumbria in Bloom entry.

There was a perception of the loss of productive time for the team owing to the use of a small water bowser and the need to return to the depot to refill it. Enquiries would be made of Neighbourhood Services to see if a larger bowser could be used and refilling take place at the public toilet block or Milburn Park.

Members reported town centre lamp columns were not likely to be replaced and were in need of repainting to improve appearance in this area; sign posts near the Maritime centre needed to be repainted; the 30 mph sign entering the town near Spital needed repainting as it had been changed to 80.

EWG11/15 SAND PROBLEMS

It was reported that the County Council had arranged a contractor with heavy moving equipment on the beach on Tuesday and Wednesday and that the sand levels adjacent to the promenade at the north end of the bay were being reduced and the sand redistributed to the south shoreline. That work should make a considerable difference to the wind-blown sand problem at the Maritime Centre and Church Point car park and Members appreciated this action.

EWG12/15 ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

The four new public seats had been installed by the County Council contractor and it was possible that a second one would be dedicated as a memorial seat at Atlee Park.

The main outstanding project to improve the Ocean View Horseshoe Steps area with an appropriate planting scheme was considered by the Group. The Town Clerk had circulated details of a scheme now provided by Neighbourhood Services and it was noted that it would be necessary to treat the land to eradicate weeds before planting could commence.

CG had advised that the steep sloping exposed site was a challenge to the success of the scheme and while appropriate plant species had been selected there was a risk of loss of top soil following heavy rain. Members were keen to ensure that this was a

good quality scheme and were in favour of the installation of retention sleepers to create some terracing and mitigate the problems of establishing the planting scheme. The Town Clerk would investigate the cost of such work with Neighbourhood Services and the contractor which carried out the Atlee environmental scheme which it was hoped could be achieved from the existing environmental budget.

It was hoped that the work to the pillars; restoration of the arch and painting the railings could be carried out at the same time.

Thinking ahead to completion of environmental schemes along the bay Members were keen to look at the introduction of some colourful planting both at the 'Couple Park' and the former boat park area at the south of the bay and would monitor the plants that worked well in the bay environment.

It was unlikely that any contribution to the levelling of the land at Woodhorn Road for the installation of the half Pit Wheel would be obtained from the County Council Highways or Neighbourhood Services. As it was preferable to establish the levels at the outset Members suggested using part of the credit from last year for some input from the County workforce and see what material costs there might be but in any event proceed with the installation of the plinth and wheel by the contractor.

AGREED: that

- (i) the above matters be referred to Neighbourhood Services;**
- (ii) the Ocean View Horseshoe Steps projects proceed together with the introduction of sleeper terracing if the quotations were within the budget;**
- (iii) the half Pit Wheel scheme be implemented with appropriate levelling works funded from the credit if possible.**