

NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Environmental Working Group held on Wednesday
03 August 2016 at 11:00 am at The Bungalow Newbiggin by-the-Sea.**

PRESENT:

Councillors:

M Cholerton M Peden W Rogers

Officer: D Earl – Town Clerk

EWG07/16 ENVIRONMENTAL SCHEMES

The meeting had been preceded by site inspections at the Pit Wheel on Woodhorn Road and the Horseshoe Steps to examine the paving schemes approved at the previous Town Council meeting. The Church Point steps had been inspected with contractors the previous week and would require concrete steps and handrails.

As all schemes were technically within the highway quotations had been requested from County approved contractors for the various works which had been agreed by Highways and Neighbourhood Services. Highways Services would undertake the scheme at Horseshoe Steps if the Town Council met the cost of the paving materials. The Vice-Chairman and Town Clerk had inspected materials at the County suppliers and a catalogue of paving materials was considered in context of the schemes. The Autumn Brown paving was selected for both paving schemes.

It was agreed that as these three schemes were within available budgets they would proceed as soon as they could be arranged with the contractors and Highway Services following acceptance of the lowest quotations.

It was noted that new planting scheme at the Horseshoe Steps had not been weeded and this would be passed again to the Enhancement Team for immediate attention.

EWG08/16 SAND ISSUES

While progress continued to be made with sand removal along the promenade there were still some areas where it had collected under seats and other areas less accessible to the sweeper that had been requested to be resolved at the start of the season and again prior to the school holidays. These matters would be raised again to ensure that the promenade was in a good condition for the Bank Holiday weekend.

Quotations for day rates had been obtained from an approved contractor so that the Town Council could consider future beach profiling and promenade clearance should problems continue into next year and not be addressed by the County Council whose consent would be required in any event. The Group felt that a two day trial should be undertaken in the spring to lower the central area of the beach by four feet in the centre of the bay and as far along the wave wall as possible then be assessed throughout the new season.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the Town Council approve undertaking a trial scheme and any necessary promenade clearance with the costs to be met from the Local Service and Town Improvement budgets.

EWG09/16 LITTER BIN REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME

The Town Clerk had now received the recommendations from Northumberland County Neighbourhood Services regarding replacement of old or unsuitable litter bins throughout the town and some suggested new ones. More than 40 ground mounted bins would be required at an estimated cost of £270 including fitting so a rolling replacement programme would have to be considered. The Group felt that those bins related to the shops on the main street (17) should be replaced as a first phase of the programme to be discussed at the Town Council meeting.

Replacement of the post mounted bins and new locations would be considered as part of a rolling programme subject to further budget consideration.

It was RECOMMENDED that the Town Council approve the bin replacement programme commencing with the bins in the vicinity of the shops in the current financial year.

EWG10/16 AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND

Following on previous discussions a further meeting had been arranged with Neighbourhood Services to ensure suitable arrangements for litter collection etc. and previous improvements in service were discussed but felt not to have gone far enough yet. If necessary overtime working would be approved and funded by the Town Council enhancement budget and arrangements put in place with Neighbourhood Services.

It was confirmed that the temporary car park would be made available to the local groups promoting the weekend events and further signage requested from NCC.