

NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Environmental Working Group held on Wednesday
16 June 2016 at 3:00 pm at The Bungalow Newbiggin by-the-Sea.**

PRESENT:

Councillors:

M Cholerton M Peden W Rogers

Officer: D Earl – Town Clerk

County Neighbourhood Services SE Manager and Team Leader

EWG03/16 ENHANCED SERVICES 2016

The meeting had been convened to review the outstanding enhancement priorities agreed at the previous meeting which had not been completed ahead of the Bank Holiday weekend as agreed. Early morning litter collection; sand/weed clearance under promenade seats; seat painting at the Quay Wall were all outstanding and the Team Leader had been on holiday the previous two weeks so would have to investigate and arrange completion although overtime working had been implemented that weekend.

Members highlighted other issues with litter collection and weed clearance at high profile sites at Atlee Park and litter paint damage and graffiti at the Skatepark. These areas needed urgent attention ahead of the school summer holidays.

While the grass cutting around the town was praised Members expressed the need for the local community to be able to see the results of the enhancement works that were being funded. There was a need for a more proactive approach to problem areas particularly regarding sand related problems whether along the promenade or in Atlee Park particularly where safety issues were concerned. The hot spots were now well known and should be reviewed regularly by the Enhancement Team.

The issue with the Lifeboat ramp was again highlighted and required attention to safeguard elderly and disabled crossing the strip joining the promenade and the clearance of sand at the steps near the Maritime Centre.

The requested work sheets identifying completed enhancement works and priorities were being prepared by the Team Leader and would be provided shortly.

A range of tub plants had been purchased from a local supplier and the summer planting for the town centre areas and Quay Wall Piazza was being undertaken that week. The small tubs had been removed and only the larger ones would be planted up and replaced.

Despite some ongoing problems with wind-blown sand on the promenade it was confirmed that the Gully Wagon had been down the promenade and cleared the channels.

Particular problems in the Storey Crescent/Woodhorn Road area were highlighted and would be inspected following the meeting. Problems with the weed-spraying contract were highlighted with Neighbourhood Services having to undertake additional works to gutters. Grass-cutting on banks had been suspended following an accident in Morpeth and robotic cutters were being considered.

EWG04/16 ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

Following discussions with County Highways the paving works around the Pit Wheel could now proceed and be complemented by leveling works by Neighbourhood Services. A county approved contractor could be engaged as Highways had no capacity to undertake additional works before November.

The footpath at the top of the Horseshoe Steps had been inspected and a paving scheme agreed by County Highways incorporating a power supply for the arch. They would undertake the highway works if the Town Council contributed the cost of the paving stones and materials.

It was RECOMMENDED that the Town Council proceed with the works for these small schemes as soon as possible.