

**CORPORATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
SUMMARY OF OUTCOME AND PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS – TOPIC SCORING EXERCISE - 22 FEBRUARY 2022**

**REJECTED TOPICS**

<b>Topic No.</b>	<b>Source</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
1	Member of Public	<p><b>What happened to Waste / Recycling in WLBC</b></p> <p>"What happens to the waste that is collected in West Lancashire from domestic premises, commercial premises, recycling sites and in commercially operated skips.</p> <p>The objective is to find out if the waste is recycled, how the waste is recycled, and who does the recycling.</p> <p>And to check that if waste operators are claiming that they recycle, that they do actually recycle, and they do not simply ship it to a third world country for "recycling", for example.</p> <p>The information provided to the general public on recycling of waste is often inadequate and sometimes misleading.</p> <p>Some questions that I would want answering on the recycling processes are:</p> <p>How much of the general waste, garden waste, plastic and paper waste is incinerated? This is a perfectly reasonable way to recycle, but it affects how waste is sorted after collection, and how important it is for the house holder to sort and clean waste before collection.</p>	<p><b>Recommendation: Reject for in depth review</b>, and that the details of the submission be referred to the Head of Environmental Services in order to continue to support, drive, engage and inform residents of the Borough in all aspects waste/recycling information, education and engagement.</p>

		<p>Is the metallic waste sorted into copper, iron, aluminium etc.</p> <p>What happens to the garden waste? Is it composted, and what happens to the residual matter left over and any methane produced during the composting process.</p> <p>What happens to waste wood? It could be incinerated, or chipped and possibly composted. Does it matter if glass, nails, plastic, etc are included.</p> <p>I think that everyone has a part to play in this recycling process, and the council should be honest about what the problems are and how the public can help.</p> <p>Lancashire county council and waste operators might need to be consulted by the committee to satisfactorily answer these questions. I would expect a detailed mandatory monthly report from each operator giving answers to questions as above.</p> <p>I notice that one question that is considered by the committee is :NI192 Percentage of kerbside household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting. This is only one part of the recycling process and certainly does not adequately answer the questions above."</p>	
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2	WLBC Councillor	<p><b>Skelmersdale Memorial Park; Sandy Lane</b></p> <p>A piece of Land has been Identified in Skelmersdale which would be suitable for a Memorial Park, The Land involved is Adjacent to the Skelmersdale War Memorial, and the BP garage which as we know is not far from the Victoria Public House.</p> <p>The plan would be to fence the ground involved and build a show wall on the roundabout side of the sight. Also, what is asked for is that paths are built, and seating be placed around the park. Bins will be asked for and placed around the park and will be emptied and the general upkeep of the park will be done by the Veterans associations in Skelmersdale, and a contract will be signed.</p> <p>The sticking point I can see is how long the lease is on the land because if the Council lease the land for less than 25 years there is no point to building this project. The Veterans will be asking for a 99-year lease so that eventually a new War Memorial can be built so in any future conflicts Skelmersdale men can have their names exultant which is rightly so, after making the ultimate sacrifice.</p> <p>Also, this is the main thoroughfare that leads from Ormskirk and planning permission as been given for Housing to be built on the site of the old Railway Inn, so building this Park will be an enhancement to the local area</p> <p>The Armed forces Champion is in Consultation with various charities and businesses in Skelmersdale, for donations towards this project, which will alleviate some of the cost towards the Council.</p>	<p><b>Recommendation: Reject for in depth review</b>, and that support be provided by Estates/Valuations/Legal team in respect of arrangements/technicalities of the length of the lease, in order to enable the project to be suitably viable.</p>
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3	Member of Public	<p><b>Removal of Graffiti</b></p> <p>Graffiti on wall opposite job centre in Ormskirk is not only an eyesore but is also offensive, this is something that has been there for a considerable length of time. Could this be dealt with?</p>	<p><b>Recommendation: Reject for in depth review</b>, and that the matter be referred to the Head of Environmental Services to be addressed.</p>
6	Parish Council	<p><b>Dog Fouling - additional enforcement measures</b></p> <p>Dog Fouling - additional enforcement measures, education for dog-owners, posters, stencils, more publicity and perhaps an increase in the fines for 'dog fouling'. The local PCSO's used to have the powers to assist your officers with 'litter and dog-fouling' but not sure if this is still happening?</p>	<p>It was concluded that the matters highlighted are already being addressed and that the matters be referred to the Head of Environmental Services.</p> <p><b>Recommendation: Reject for in depth review</b>, and details to be referred to the Head of Environmental Services.</p>
7	Parish Council	<p><b>Additional litter/dog-waste bins sites</b></p> <p>Additional sites for litter/dog-waste bins with additional emptying of bins with a high footfall.</p>	<p>It was concluded that the matters highlighted are already being addressed and that a review in respect of this topic has recently taken place. The details to be referred to the Head of Environmental Services.</p> <p><b>Recommendation: Reject for in depth review</b>, and details of the submission be referred to the Head of Environmental Services.</p>

## POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR REVIEW

Topic No.	Source	Topic	Outcome
5	Member of Public	<p><b>Removal of car park charges to increase footfall in Ormskirk. (3 month trial)</b></p> <p>To cease the rapid decline of Ormskirk town centre and increase footfall at the shop/restaurants etc, may I suggest the removal of all parking charges (initially of a three-month trial period). I can hear the gasps of disbelief from the Councillors, as the revenues this brings in must be astronomical. But I believe without radical ideas and actions local businesses will suffer and probably fail. Ormskirk Council could then publicise the fact that they are taking the most innovative measures to improve the towns future. This would then attract and encourage new businesses to locate in the town. Removing parking charges would then leave traffic wardens free to carry out safety/illegal parking patrols etc.</p>	<p>It was concluded that this submission would be difficult to scrutinise and that ideas were currently being looked into in respect of a trial e.g. 'free after three'.</p> <p><b>Recommendation: Possible topic for in depth review</b></p>
8	WLBC Council	<p><b>'Water Management Strategies'</b></p> <p>Recommendation from Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee following the conclusion of the review of 'Action on Climate Emergency/Create/Designate Hedgehog and Wildlife Areas In Public Parks/Gardens Across The Borough'.</p>	<p>It was concluded that Members refer any comments/questions to the Flooding and Drainage Cabinet Working Group for matters in relation to 'Water Management Strategies'.</p> <p><b>Recommendation: Possible topic for in depth review</b></p>

<p><b>10</b></p>	<p>Member of Public</p>	<p><b>Skelmersdale Community Farm</b></p> <p>I believe there is a very real need for a Skelmersdale Community farm, allowing people in need to pick their own fresh veg and fruit. There are many ways this community project could be run and people can get involved for improving their physical and mental health. The land could also be used by schools and used for other educational uses including country crafts. I see this project as potentially linking local businesses, education and health providers with the local community as well as promoting solid, sustainable growing methods and encouraging species diversity through careful planning. Even if this venture is beyond the scope of the Council's current remit, it would be great if anyone could point me towards someone able to discuss this further.</p>	<p>It was concluded that the Council support the idea and that the 'Skelmersdale Community Farm' be signposted details to help support with the relevant guidance and advice in respect of potential funding/bid writing and development.</p> <p><b>Recommendation: Possible topic for in depth review.</b> Signposting/guidance be provided in respect of potential funding/bid writing and development of project.</p>
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## PRIORITY TOPICS FOR REVIEW

Topic No.	Source	Topic	Outcome
4	Parish Council	<p><b>Grass cutting contracts</b></p> <p>Wrightington Parish Council would like to ask that more consideration be given to the grass cutting contracts undertaken by West Lancashire Borough Council as a devolved function from LCC.</p> <p>In recent years grass cutting has been sporadic and in many cases quite poorly undertaken. The cutting of grass verges is an extremely important function where neglected and overgrown long grass can often obstruct sightlines for motorists exiting a junction or, where the verge has been uncut for so long that chevrons, hazard markers and similar roadside signage is completely obscured and does not therefore serve the purpose for which it was erected. Both these matters could result in highway safety for road users being seriously compromised.</p> <p>The Parish Council would therefore like to ask the Borough Council to take this devolved function more seriously. To find a professional and efficient contractor who will undertake the grass cutting in accordance with the highway verge cutting schedule, who will be vigilant enough to realise that a meter swathe is not always sufficient at a dangerous junction and use their initiative to cut back to the fence line to ensure that sightlines remain unobstructed. A contractor who will also strim around the street furniture as part of the grass verge cutting process or where space is limited and the grass verge cutter cannot access, to ensure that hazard warning signs or markers are clearly visible to the motorist approaching them.</p> <p>If this work could be undertaken regularly and efficiently and effectively on each occasion, this would reduce the number of complaints received by both the Borough and the County Council,</p>	<p>It was concluded that there was good evidence linking the topic to Council's key aims and priorities and could lead to substantial potential benefits community wide or for a significant proportion or section of the community.</p> <p><b>Recommendation: Priority Topic for in depth review</b></p>

		would improve highway safety for both motorists and pedestrians and, would indicate to the electorate that the Borough Council are as proud of the Borough as those who live in it and, that they take pride in keeping the Borough as neat and tidy as possible.	
9	Member of Public	<p><b>Litter clearance in Skelmersdale (and possibly other areas)</b></p> <p>I would like to see 'Litter clearance in Skelmersdale' considered for scrutiny in the Committee's work programme for the coming municipal year. The following applies:</p> <p>As a new town built round/over quite steep cloughs, Skelmersdale has particular features which mean that street cleansing and litter clearance can be more challenging than in other areas of the borough. There appear to be sections of the town which are either unreachable for 'everyday' litter clearance, where waste accumulates e.g. the Cloughs to the East side of the town centre, or where responsibility for litter clearance remains unclear e.g. the undergrowth alongside Summer Street.</p> <p>What I would like to see is a proper 'gap analysis' to assess the areas of the town that are either inaccessible to everyday cleaning services or where it is not clear who has responsibility, leading to options and recommendations for action that do not incur significant extra revenue costs which are likely to remain impossible given ongoing budget constraints.</p> <p>As a key part of this, there should be a quantitative and qualitative assessment of the voluntary efforts by people in the town, which have grown significantly in the last couple of years (perhaps linked to a surge in 'mutual aid' spirit during the pandemic. These efforts are focused both on cleaning up areas where control of the</p>	<p>It was concluded that there was strong evidence linking the topic to Council's key aims and priorities and could lead to substantial potential benefits affecting one or more ward/customer/client groups.</p> <p><b>Recommendation: Priority Topic for in depth review</b></p>

littering situation has been lost, and a concentrated effort is needed to take it in hand, or on supplementing the everyday services provided by the council's street cleansing team.

The council currently provides good support through the provision of bags and pickers, as well as collecting bags cleared promptly, but it would be good to add this element to the overall 'gap analysis' in order to look at how these voluntary services might attain even greater value but without compromising its organic, voluntary nature. This might for example, be through the quantification of hours undertaken voluntarily such that they can become match funding in kind for bids for further resources, but at the very least the work programme might seek to gain a picture of the positive knock on effects of the work being undertaken by selfless volunteers alongside hardworking paid, and volunteers, and might for example benefit from an assessment of how this kind of mutual aid work can foster wider community activity, especially in the context of the council's environmental and net zero ambitions.

Further, the work programme might consider whether there are relatively affordable engineering solutions, paid for via capital grant submissions, to be had to some of the cleansing problems e.g. constructing paths down into the Cloughs via grant funded projects, so as to allow both better public use and ease of cleaning.

Finally, while the proposal here is specifically about Skelmersdale, because of the ownership/topographic details referred to above, I recognize of course that the committee may want to take in other area of West Lancashire, which may have littering problems specific to them, or where local solutions might be replicated elsewhere in the borough.

