

**CORPORATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

HELD: Thursday, 14 December 2023

Start: 7.00 pm

Finish: 7.15 pm

PRESENT:

Councillor: D West (Chairman)
P Hogan (Vice-Chair)

Councillors: P Hogan T De Freitas
J Gordon P Hennessy
P Hesketh S Lawton
K Lloyd

Officers: Lisa Windle, Head of Corporate and Customer Services
Adam Spicer, Assistant Solicitor
Dan Massey, Outdoor Recreation Manager
Stephen Bissette, Clean & Green Operations Manager
Christine Wood, Interim Democratic Services Officer

1 **APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor Julian Finch.

2 **MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE**

There were no changes to Membership of the Committee.

3 **URGENT BUSINESS, IF ANY, INTRODUCED BY THE CHAIRMAN**

There were no urgent items of business.

4 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

5 **DECLARATIONS OF A PARTY WHIP**

There were no declarations of Party Whip.

6 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 21
SEPTEMBER 2023**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 21 September 2023, be received as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

7 **PUBLIC SPEAKING**

There were no items under this heading.

**8 ITEMS FROM THE MEMBERS' UPDATED INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA AT THE
REQUEST OF A MEMBER**

There were no items under this heading.

9 MEMBERS ITEMS / CCFA (COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION)

There were no items under this heading.

**10 UPDATES FOR THE LITTER CLEARANCE IN WEST LANCS, INCLUDING FLY
TIPPING AND GROT SPOTS AND TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

The Clean and Green Operations Manager presented the report of the Corporate Director of Transformation, Housing and Resources the purpose of which was to provide the Committee with an update on the actions completed for the Litter Clearance in West Lancashire, including Fly Tipping and Grot Spots.

An update for each project was provided as follows:

1. To roll out Community Skip Days in other parts of the Borough in conjunction with Parish Councils

It was reported that no further communications had been received from Parish Councils.

2. Eco Schools to invite the 58 Primary Schools within West Lancashire to enter a competition to design a Poster showing their 'Eco School Ethos'. Winning schools will receive a Character Bin and will receive an educational visit by the Environmental Enforcement Team

The Committee was advised that 56 entries had been received from 4 primary schools as follows:

- Burscough Village Primary School, Burscough
- Pontville School, Ormskirk
- Hesketh-with-Becconsall All Saints CE School, Hesketh Bank
- St Johns RC Primary School, Burscough

The Committee was further advised that the 6 winning entries had been chosen by the Portfolio Holder for Street Scene (Councillor Neil Furey).

Pontville School, Ormskirk had been presented with bins on 12 October 2023. The Clean and Green Operations Manager, Clean and Green Area Manager, Councillor Neil Furey and Mayoress Maureen Nixon and her consort, Mr Laughton Wilkinson had attended the presentation. A photograph of the visit and presentation was appended to the report at Appendix 1.

A bin presentation would be taking place at All Saints CE Primary School in

Hesketh Bank during January 2024.

3. Volunteer Litter Picking

It was reported that there had been a slight drop off in requests for litter picking equipment and that this was normal during the Winter months.

4. Environmental Borough Improvements to tackle Grot Spot Locations, four locations

The Committee was advised that projects 1 (East Gillibrands, Skelmersdale), 2 (West Pimbo, Skelmersdale) and 3 (Old Boundary Way, Ormskirk) had been completed. Project 4 (Elmers Clough, Skelmersdale) would commence on 25 November 2024 and was expected to take approximately 4 weeks.

Photograph images of before and after completion of work of Projects 2 and 3 were appended to the report at Appendices 2 and 3.

It was anticipated that actions would be completed before the end of January 2024.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

11 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS, INCLUDING COMMUNITY ORCHARDS, TASK & FINISH GROUP

The Outdoor Recreation Manager presented the report of the Corporate Director of Transformation, Housing and Resources the purpose of which was to provide an update on the actions completed to plant orchards at six sites in West Lancashire.

The Committee was advised that Council Officers had conducted a community consultation with the communities surrounding the short-listed sites. The on-line survey had become live on 10 February 2023 and closed on 27 February 2023. Approximately, 260 letters and questionnaires had been hand delivered to residents directly surrounding the proposed sites on 10 February 2023. Postal responses had been accepted until 29 February 2023. Posters had been displayed in the six areas to promote the consultation to residents from the wider area. The poster had included a QR code to the online survey.

In addition, residents at the Brookhouse Road and Cotton Drive site had completed a longer questionnaire and had been asked if they wanted a wildflower in addition to fruit trees. To increase the response rate, the Community Connectors Team had knocked on residents' doors to complete the questionnaire with residents.

It was reported that the consultation had received 164 responses and that overall, responses had been positive. Details of the responses as detailed in the report were outlined to the Committee.

It was also reported that as agreed by the Task and Finish Group, the QR code signs had been attached to some of the tree stakes at each site which would link to the new Community Orchards webpage on the Council website.

The Committee was advised that the Tree Policy had now been approved at a meeting of the Cabinet held on 21st November 2023.

RESOLVED: That the update be noted.

12 **FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME**

RESOLVED: That the updated Work Programme be noted.

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Chairman