

SEFTON AREA PARTNERSHIP OF LOCAL COUNCILS
Aintree Village-Formby-Hightown-Ince Blundell-Little Altcar
Lydiate-Maghull-Melling-Sefton-Thornton

Minutes of the Meeting of the Area Partnership held on Thursday 16th January, 2014 at Maghull Town Hall

PRESENT:

Cllrs M.Coles (Chair, Formby), W.Honeyman (Aintree Village), P.Walker (Hightown), D.Warren (Hightown), A.Ibbs (Little Altcar), J.Jarvis (Maghull), A.McIntyre (Clerk, Maghull), P.McKinley (Leader, Maghull), R.Baker (Melling), A.Carr (Melling), G.Lee (Melling), B.Draper (Sefton), A.White (Sefton), J.Kelly (Chair, Area Committee), G.Berwick (Cleansing Services Manager, SMBC), A.Walker (Head of Direct Services, SMBC)

APOLOGIES:

Cllr J.Colbert (Aintree), G.Gaskin (Formby), T.Asbury (Hightown), T.Robertson (Lydiate), M.Byrne (Maghull)

The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting. He was particularly pleased to welcome John Kelly the Chair of the Area Committee, and the Leader and Clerk of Maghull Town Council. The role of the group was outlined, and the Chair explained that the environment and local governance are 2 of our key areas of work. As such he was keen to hear about any challenges SMBC are currently facing as a result of recent changes.

1. GUEST SPEAKER

Gary Berwick – Cleansing Services Manager, SMBC

Andrew Walker – Head of Direct Services, SMBC

1.1 Introductions

As Cleansing Services Manager, Gary Berwick explained that he is responsible for Refuse Collections, Recycling, Street Cleansing, Public Conveniences and Clinical Waste.

In his capacity as Head of Direct Services, Andrew Walker has responsibility for Sefton Security buildings, Careline Services and Technical Services.

1.2 Cutbacks & Changes

- Over the last few years the **Cleansing Services department** has been subject to significant cutbacks. As such cost saving measures had to be introduced, and sadly a lot of savings had to be made from frontline staffing. The introduction of **Alternate Weekly Collections** whereby residual (grey) waste is collected 1 week and garden (green) waste the following week, also brought about significant savings. The use of **'Zoning'** has also reduced the number of vehicles required to undertake the ¼ million collections each week. SMBC currently operate at a 99.94% collection rate.
- Sadly 20 staff were lost when an electric vehicle fleet was introduced to undertake **Street Sweeping** duties. Every 13th week a small mechanical brush is now deployed to brush back channels to control weeds. Notably Wirral MBC have recently requested information on SMBC's Street Cleansing Service since SMBC operate this service most cheaply out of all the Merseyside Local Authorities.
- **Green waste** is now sent to "White Moss Composting" in KIRKBY at a saving of £3/tonne to SMBC who now pay £18/tonne to dump green waste but get £50/tonne back for the composted product. This excess money is then ploughed back into recycling. The green waste collection is

suspended from 31st October until February. Green waste previously went to “Walkers” on the Formby Bypass, who have interestingly just bought “White Moss Composting”.

1.3 The Future

- Although the suggestion was made to **charge for green waste collections** in future, a different plan has been formulated to avoid this, which will result in green waste collections being made on Saturdays and Mondays when the bin wagons are not currently deployed.
- A **brown bin** co-mingled recycled waste collection service will commence from April 2014 when the current contract with PALM for food waste recycling ends. This will incorporate plastics and cardboards recycling in addition to those materials recycled under the existing scheme, and will enable SMBC to meet their obligation to recycle plastics and cardboard by 2015. From April the grey bin will be collected 1 week, then the brown bin the following week, and SMBC will be managing both food waste and co-mingled recycling waste collections in-house. Co-mingled waste will be sent to the MWDA Materials Recycling Facility at GILLMOSS for processing. Although it is MWDA and not SMBC that benefit from the sale of the processed recyclable waste, SMBC will benefit from reduced landfill costs, which are currently £115/tonne, since more waste should be recycled. Householders will receive a letter in advance of the delivery of their brown bin, and they may have more than 1 brown bin if needed. Advertisements will also be posted on the side of bin wagons in the next few weeks advertising the new recycled waste service.

(The group requested that we be provided with the Schedule for the planned announcements regarding changes to bin collections).

- From 2016 **residual waste** will be shipped by train from KIRKBY to TEESIDE.

1.4 Questions/Comments

- (a) Are there any financial penalties for PALM for failing to deliver; given they are now fully aware that their Contract will not be renewed?
Yes. They will be charged £25 per missed collection dependant on the circumstances behind any missed collections. Defaults were implemented due to missed collections over the Christmas period.
- (b) It was queried why side sacks of residual waste left next to grey wheelie bins were not collected, yet clear sacks were.
No apologies were made for this, since the idea is to encourage recycling. It was however explained that some flats in Seaforth and Litherland, and some parts of Aintree are still on weekly collections; hence why clear sacks would be collected in these areas.
- (c) The need to clear leaves in Station Road, Melling more frequently was raised since this road was cleared today for the first time since September 2013.
Andrew Walker agreed this was not right and agreed to look into this and report back to the group. He also mentioned that SMBC had collected 663 tonnes of leaves this year. Sadly SMBC can no longer compost leaves collected from roads due to possible PMT absorption from diesel, etc.
- (d) The need to issue Crews with brushes to clear up after themselves was raised.
Gary confirmed that Crews are issued with brushes, then spoke of the difficulty in keeping staff motivated.
- (e) The size of the new brown bin for recycling was queried in view of possible storage problems this could present for some householders.
240 Litre bins have been procured at a total cost of £2 million, which equates to £15-20 per bin.
- (h) Will the existing green recycling boxes be collected?
There are no plans to collect these. Householders can keep these for their own use.

(i) Concerns were raised that if a charge was ever implemented for green waste collections, the result could be that residents would just put this in their residual waste bin.
Any such charge has been deferred for the next 2 years. SMBC will report back to Cabinet in 18 months time with a fully costed out plan.

(j) Concern was raised over the ability of SMBC to continue to deliver the service if future Budget Cuts were implemented.

Every single round and road in the Borough is looked at and ranked in terms of weeds, footfall, littering and types of houses amongst other things. It is evident there is more pride in some areas than others, and in some areas there is a clear need to educate residents on the effects of their behaviour. Resources are being allocated to enforcement in particular areas – interestingly the same outside agency KMBC have deployed.

The Chair commented on an informative presentation and stated that we do not wish to see standards in our communities drop with regards Street Sweeping, Graffiti, Recycling and Gulley Cleaning, which are issues of great importance to us.

The Chair thanked Gary Berwick and Andrew Walker for their attendance, and stressed the need for us to be kept informed of any changes. He extended an open invitation for them to attend future meetings.

2. PARISH CHARTER

2.1 Overview

Some important work has been undertaken in relation to the Parish Charter Review since the last meeting. Councillors Coles, Carr and Lee are looking into this. Following initial correspondence between Cllr Coles and Margaret Carney (Chief Executive, SMBC), a meeting then took place with Councillors Fairclough and Hardy, followed by 2-3 further meetings. Our Chair then met with the Chair of the Area Committee, John Kelly, to try and alleviate some of the existing issues with the Area Committee, and also attended the Area Committee meeting.

Fundamentally the Parish Charter is a good document; however it does need updating to ensure it works for all our member Councils.

The Secretary has since circulated a copy of the Parish Charter to Parish Clerks upon the request of the Chair.

2.2 Concerns/Issues

- The name of this organisation has changed; as has the Area Committee Structure
- Consultation and information from SMBC is often late or isn't provided at all; therefore providing no/little opportunity to respond – i.e. this was the case with recent Council Tax changes, which made it very difficult to set a Budget given no up-to-date figures were provided. The Charter needs to stipulate that information should be provided on a timely basis. In the case of Budget information this should be provided by November to mirror SMBC's own timetable.
- It is felt there should be something in the Parish Charter about the Localism Act
- It should outline what Parish and Town Councils can do
- The need for Ward Councillors to work with Parish/Town Councillors on areas of local concern should be stipulated.
- The need for greater co-operation from SMBC was raised in light of the recent closure of Aintree Library. Reference was made to paragraph 21 of the existing Charter, which requires SMBC to provide Parish and Town Councils with comprehensive information to enable them to take on services currently provided by SMBC.

A re-draft of the Parish Charter is expected by the end of January 2014. It is hoped the new version of the Charter will get the right balance; in that the wording will be sufficiently strong enough, but acceptable to both parties. The Chair will report back to the group on this at the next meeting, and hopes the revised Charter will be beneficial to John Kelly, Chair of the Area Committee.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (28/11/13)

Cllr Lee proposed that the Minutes were a true and accurate record of the previous Meeting and Cllr Warren seconded this. The group was in agreement. The Chair stated that the meeting had been beneficial and that he'd found Jane Kennedy's concerns on Hate Crime interesting. Since the meeting Jim Atherton of Merseyside Police has attended the Formby Parish Council meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

- * Laura Travers, Environment Agency (Flood Risk & Land Drainage in Alt Crossens) - January 2014
→ Information days (1400-1900):-
 - 27/1/14 – Scarisbrick Village Hall
 - 31/1/14 – Lydiate Village Centre
 - 5/2/14 - Haskayne Village Hall
 - 6/2/14 - Mere Brow Village Hall, Preston
 - 11/2/14 - Ince Blundell Village Hall

- * Cllr M.Coles, Chair (SAPLC & Area Committee) - 10/1/14

- * Mike Morris - Senior Democratic Services Officer, SMBC (Representatives for Audit & Governance Committee) - 9/1/14
→ Cllr David Warren of Hightown Parish Council currently represents the group on this Committee. Nominations for a 2nd representative should be submitted before the next meeting (N.B. this can not be a Political Party representative)

- * Dave Smyth, Clerk Sefton Parish Council (Details of new representative – Cllr A.C.White) - 7/1/14

- * Cllr A.Carr, Melling Parish Council ("Your Transport, Your Say" – Tuesday 14/1/14, 1.30-3pm, Linacre Methodist Mission) - 6/1/14

- * Cllr M.Coles, Chair (Aintree Library – list of questions for Meeting) - 4/1/14

- * Cllr M.Coles, Chair (Parish Charter – list of questions for Area Committee Meeting) - 3/1/14

- * Andrea Watts - Head of Governance & Civic Services, SMBC (Liverpool City Region) - 2/1/14
→ Consultation on Governance Review for City Region took place Autumn 2013 under S.82 of the Local Transport Act 2008 & S.109 Local Democracy, Economic Development & Construction Act 2009. The Government is currently carrying out their own Consultation. SMBC will consider their response to this Consultation at the Cabinet Meeting on 16/1/14 and at the Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 14/1/14.

- * Cllr M.Coles, Chair (Sefton's Monthly Tracker) - 26/12/13
- * Cllr M.Coles, Chair (Email to Mark Long, SMBC. Request to be kept updated re: Liverpool City Region) - 13/12/13
- * Laura Travers, Environment Agency (Newsletter: Alt Crossens Catchment – Flood Risk & Land Drainage Management) - 12/12/13

6. FUTURE SPEAKERS

- * Mark Long, SMBC Economics Officer (Handling Liverpool City Region Work)
(* *It was suggested that a Special Meeting could be called to discuss this topic*)
- * Chief Superintendent, Nikki Holland – Merseyside Police (Lack of Police presence locally)
- * Trish Hardy, Cabinet Member responsible for Local Communities
- * Margaret Rawding, SMBC (SMBC Budget)
- * Merseyside Chief Fire Officer (Concern about loss of Appliances)
- * Peter Cowley (Parish Charter)

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Hightown Parish Council Meeting – 20/1/14

Graham Lymberry of SMBC will be attending Hightown Parish Council's meeting on Monday 20/1/14 to discuss Coastal concerns. All are welcome to attend. The meeting will take place at St Stephens Parish Hall and will commence at 7.45pm.

7.2 Policing – Aintree Village

At present there are only 2 PCSOs, but no Dedicated Officer to cover the Aintree and Melling area. As such, it was mentioned there is no Police presence in that area tonight due to shift patterns, and it is rare that the Police are seen in Aintree and Melling. The need for Aintree Village and Melling Parish Councils to work together to tackle this issue was raised.

7.3 New Houses, Woodvale

The Ministry of Defence has objected to the construction of new homes in the Woodvale area.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on **Thursday 20th March, 2014** in the Council Chamber at Maghull Town Hall commencing at 7.30pm.