



meeting notes

Title: Long Eaton and South Community Forum

Date: Thursday 18 October 2012

Venue: Noble Independent Living, West End Mills, Leopold Street, Long Eaton, NG10 4QD

Apologies: Christopher Corry-Thomas, David Pinney, Councillor Steve Bilbie, Councillor Cheryl Pidgeon, Phil Wright, Scott Cartledge.

No.	Subject	Action / Lead Officer
1	Welcome from the Chair (Mike Powell)	
2	John Brickles and Joe Kirby, Recycling Supervisors, Erewash Borough Council	
2.1	John Brickles (JB) delivered a Powerpoint presentation regarding recycling in Erewash. The presentation started with some facts and figures regarding the refuse collection service. It then explained where all the general waste and recycling goes once collected. The presentation then covered the items that can and can't be recycled, and concluded with some 'frequently asked questions'.	
2.2	JB mentioned the recent Sawley bin audit exercise. The Refuse Collection team have looked at the contents of the general waste (black) bins and the blue recycling bins / green bags. In the black bins it has been established that, on average, 30% of the materials in there can be recycled.	
2.3	<p><u>Question from resident:</u> How much does Erewash Borough Council get paid for recycling?</p> <p><i>John Brickles, Recycling Officer, Erewash Borough Council:</i> In the first instance Erewash Borough Council pay the appointed company £61 for each ton of general waste that has been collected. This is the payment made by Erewash Borough Council to the company to ensure that all collected general waste is disposed of by them appropriately. At the end of each year the tonnage of recycled material collected across the year is totalled and, in effect, a payment is then made to Erewash Borough Council in relation to this. The overall cost to Erewash Borough Council therefore depends on the balance between the amount of general waste collected and the amount of recycled materials collected. The higher the percentage of</p>	

	material that is to be recycled, the better it is for Erewash Borough Council.	
2.4	<p><i>Ian Marsden, Consultation Officer, Erewash Borough Council:</i> An article will appear in the November edition of our community magazine 'EBC today' that will explain what items can and can't be recycled. For example, we can now recycle plastics numbered 1 to 5 inclusive. The same information will be included on our new look website, due for launch on 1 November 2012. The magazine will also include information relating to the Christmas refuse collection timetable.</p>	
2.5	<p><u>Question from resident:</u> Regarding the refuse collection lorries, is it not better to lease the lorries rather than buy them?</p> <p><i>Joe Kirby, Recycling Officer, Erewash Borough Council:</i> Erewash Borough Council has joined the Nottinghamshire Transport Consortium. There are 13 other local councils in this group. It is a large buying group for all the Council's fleet resources so it includes not only refuse collection lorries but, for example, the Neighbourhood Wardens' vans. A tendering process has recently been completed. We are looking to start placing orders for new vehicles in January 2013.</p> <p><i>Dave Bramwell, Head of Green Space and Street Scene, Erewash Borough Council:</i> The outright purchase of refuse collection vehicles is best if you are intending to keep the vehicles for between 5 and 7 years. This is the extent of their life span. When you lease a vehicle you have to return it in the condition you received it in. As you can imagine a refuse collection vehicle receives many dints and scuffs during its working life and to repair these can be costly. If you do purchase a refuse collection vehicle and you look to sell it on you'll be lucky if you receive 20% of its initial value.</p>	
2.6	<p><u>Question from resident</u> When is food waste going to be collected separately at the kerbside?</p> <p><i>John Brickles, Recycling Officer, Erewash Borough Council:</i> This is not an option at the current time due to the costs involved.</p>	
2.7	<p><u>Question from resident</u> Are all the vehicles that are used to collect waste owned by Erewash Borough Council or are there others with other companies' names on?</p> <p><i>Dave Bramwell, Head of Green Space and Street Scene, Erewash Borough Council:</i> If you see refuse collection vehicles with names like 'Biffa' on the side they are usually the trade waste part of the collection. Erewash Borough Council vehicles are the only ones that are used for weekly domestic kerbside collections. There are the odd occasions when a vehicle may have to be hired in temporarily, for example over Christmas.</p>	

2.8	<p><u>Statement from resident</u> In Sandiacre there is a pick up truck from Newark that tours the streets. It's owned by a 'scrap man' and he collects all items of scrap.</p> <p><i>John Brickles, Recycling Officer, Erewash Borough Council:</i> We have noticed over a period of time that bulky goods put out for collection by ourselves can sometimes disappear before we collect them. It may be the case that a scrap metal merchant is taking them.</p> <p><u>Question from resident</u> Would you still charge for the bulky item collection if someone took the bulky items away prior to you getting there?</p> <p><i>John Brickles, Recycling Officer, Erewash Borough Council:</i> We will often go twice to a property to make sure that the items have been put out for collection. In the circumstances described you probably would get a refund, yes.</p>	
2.9	<p><u>Question from resident</u> Can schools recycle Tetrapaks?</p> <p><i>John Brickles, Recycling Officer, Erewash Borough Council:</i> All schools get free blue recycling bins and, yes, they can recycle Tetrapaks. We find that it is good to encourage children to recycle as they in turn educate their parents. We often visit schools to give talks to children about the benefits of recycling.</p>	
2.10	<p><u>Question from resident</u> Can plastic bags be recycled?</p> <p><i>John Brickles, Recycling Officer, Erewash Borough Council:</i> Yes, they can. However, plastic bags must not be used to contain other recyclable materials e.g. newspapers. They must be placed into the recycling collection on their own.</p>	
2.11	<p><u>Question from resident</u> Can shredded papers be taken? I wrap shredded paper in newspaper and then place it in the recycling.</p> <p><i>John Brickles, Recycling Officer, Erewash Borough Council:</i> Yes, shredded papers can be taken. Wrapping them in newspaper is a good idea as it lessens the chance of the shredded paper being blown about on a windy day.</p>	
2.12	<p><u>Question from the Chair</u> What is the latest news regarding the possibility of a new Household Waste Recycling Centre being developed in the Long Eaton area?</p> <p><i>Councillor Chris Corbett:</i> The provision of a Household Waste Recycling Centre is a Derbyshire County Council function. During a recent discussion between Derbyshire County Council and Erewash Borough Council on this subject it became clear that a location for such a site is yet to be identified. There is no progress therefore at this time.</p>	

2.13	<p><u>Question from resident</u> Can foil milk bottle tops be recycled? What about plastic milk bottle tops?</p> <p><i>John Brickles, Recycling Officer, Erewash Borough Council:</i> Foil milk bottle tops can be recycled. Regarding plastic tops from plastic bottles, please take them off so that the plastic bottle can be crushed in the back of the refuse collection vehicle. If the plastic lid is attached the plastic bottle can 'explode' when crushed.</p>	
2.14	<p><u>Question from resident</u> Who is responsible for clearing up any spillages from the refuse collection round?</p> <p><i>John Brickles, Recycling Officer, Erewash Borough Council:</i> The refuse collection team are meant to clear it up. The street cleansing rota means it is unfortunately impossible for it to mirror the refuse collection rota. Please report to us any problems that are encountered.</p>	
2.15	<p><u>Question received in advance</u> Can window envelopes be recycled as they are, or does the window have to be removed?</p> <p><i>Julie Harvey, Resource, Recovery & Fleet Manager, Erewash Borough Council:</i> Yes, they can be recycled as they are.</p>	
2.16	<p><u>Question received in advance</u> Would you please ask a question on my behalf about the amount of plastic that is NOT suitable to place in a blue bin?</p> <p>We can only place plastic marked with a triangle with 1, 2 or 3 stamped in the triangle for recycling. I have noticed that so many of the containers used by supermarkets are stamped with a number 5 which is polypropylene and therefore has to go in the black bin, or else the containers are not stamped with anything. This means that margarine containers, yoghurt pots both large and small; Tetra Paks; and several other types cannot be recycled. Many non-food goods are packed in plastic bubbles, bubble wrap, or packed inside polystyrene blocks. Asda sometimes packs joints of meat in rigid plastic containers which are non-recyclable. Polystyrene meat and fruit trays are not recyclable, although I do buy loose fruit and vegetables, but many people buy 4 apples or kiwi fruit etc, placed on a non-recyclable tray and wrapped overall in non-recyclable cling film! We cannot recycle plastic bags or plastic carrier bags either.</p> <p>I do not wish to bore the speaker with a long list of goods, but it seems to me that in the years that we have been compulsorily recycling, hardly anything at all has been added to the original list. I would like to know if a concerted effort to add many more types of plastic, different types of packaging, crisp bags, yogurt transparent lids, and some metals like domestic saucepans and cutlery, to the original list will be taking place in the near future?</p>	

	<p><i>Julie Harvey, Resource, Recovery & Fleet Manager, Erewash Borough Council:</i></p> <p>All plastics can be placed in the blue bin or green bags. Margarine tubs, yoghurt pots, and Tetra paks can be recycled at kerbside also. Any container showing either the recycling triangle or the triangle with a number inside can be recycled. Carrier bags can be recycled, these must be tied in a knot to avoid blowing around, and they must not be used to put other recycled items in. All the above products are due to the new contracts we have secured this year.</p>	
2.17	<p><u>Question received in advance</u></p> <p>I am not sure if my particular question falls under recycling or refuse, but I would like to know if there are any plans to compost `hutch waste`.</p> <p>Like many other people I keep pet rabbits and their waste is currently going to landfill. This makes no sense when landfill sites are fit to burst and rabbit / guinea pig waste is 100% compostable.</p> <p>Other councils allow pet owners to put hutch waste in the brown compost bin but Erewash don't allow it at present. Will this be changing in the near future?</p> <p><i>Julie Harvey, Resource, Recovery & Fleet Manager, Erewash Borough Council:</i></p> <p>We do not wish residents to place hutch waste in the brown bin. We do not want any waste that contains animal faeces to be placed in the brown bin.</p>	
2.18	<p>MP thanked JB for his presentation.</p> <p>MP introduced Dean Gazzard (DG), Station Manager, Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service.</p>	
3	<p>Dean Gazzard, Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service</p>	
3.1	<p>Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service (DFRS) have started a consultation process to ask people how they would like the service to be run.</p>	
3.2	<p>DFRS will experience a further reduction in their budget. It is therefore very important to understand how people want DFRS's money to be spent.</p>	
3.3	<p>There are three main strands of work that DFRS are involved in; 'prevention', 'protection' and 'response'. Prevention involves preventing fires occurring by, for example, fitting smoke alarms in to properties.</p>	
3.4	<p>Protection involves Fire Safety Enforcement Officers visiting premises to undertake risk assessments.</p>	
3.5	<p>Response is the last line of defence. This is the part that fights the fires.</p>	
3.6	<p>The consultation asks people where resources should be spent in</p>	

	relation to the three main strands.	
3.7	DFRS have access to a lot of data and information that tells them where the geographical areas of high risk are. The consultation asks people to state where they would concentrate resources.	
3.8	DRFS have a sprinkler campaign called 'Think Sprinkler'. The aim is to increase the number of sprinklers fitted into domestic properties. There is no law to say that sprinklers must be fitted in a domestic property. DG showed a domestic sprinkler fitting. DFRS would like to see all new domestic properties have the necessary piping for sprinklers fitted during the construction phase. Retro fitting is possible, though for a typical house it would cost approximately £2500 where no piping exists. It is much cheaper if the builders fit during construction. One idea is to encourage builders to offer the fitting of sprinklers instead of carpets and curtains.	
3.9	There is a reduction of insurance premiums for businesses that have sprinkler systems. This is perhaps something that may occur with domestic properties in the future.	
3.10	All sprinklers have a stop tap fitted. There have been very few recorded instances of sprinklers activating when not required.	
3.11	In terms of sprinkler's long term maintenance it's the same as the plumbing in your house.	
3.12	The diameter of the sprinkler's spray is such that one sprinkler would serve a room 15 feet x 15 feet.	
3.13	If a fire occurs in a property we would instruct people to close all doors and place a damp cloth / towel at the base of the closed door. This will protect a room for approximately 30 minutes.	
3.14	A carbon monoxide detector is also recommended. They typically cost around £15.	
3.15	The consultation can be found on the DFRS website www.derbyshire.gov.uk .	
4	Update from Officers	
4.1	<p>The Chair introduced Phil Sudlow (PS), Housing Benefits Manager, Erewash Borough Council.</p> <p>PS explained that Council Tax Benefit is changing nationally from April 2013. A new Council Tax Support Scheme will be introduced. This scheme is to be devised by the local council (i.e. Erewash Borough Council in this area). Erewash Borough Council is being subjected to a 10% cut in the funding received from central government in relation to supporting Council Tax Benefit. This will result in changes to the amount of Council Tax support that can be offered. Pensioners are protected from any changes to what they currently receive in Council Tax Benefit. Central government have insisted on this. For the Erewash borough the shortfall in funding is</p>	

	approximately £850,000. A proposal has been made by Erewash Borough Council as to how to best mitigate this shortfall.	
4.2	<p>From April 2013 Erewash Borough Council has proposed a change to the Council Tax discounts that people can apply for.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Second homes</u> – the current Council Tax exemption is set at 50%. It is proposed to remove this exemption completely and charge the full 100% Council Tax. • <u>Unoccupied domestic properties</u> – the current Council Tax exemption is set at 100% for a maximum of six months with a discount of 50% thereafter. It is proposed to change the exemption to 100% for a maximum of three months thereafter no exemption or discount will be awarded. • <u>Unoccupied domestic properties over two years</u> – It is proposed to charge an additional 50% on these properties providing a charge of 150% for this category. • <u>Uninhabitable domestic properties currently undergoing structural alterations, renovation and repair</u> – the current Council Tax exemption is set at 100% for a maximum of twelve months. It is proposed to change the exemption to 100% for a maximum of six months thereafter no exemption or discount will be awarded. <p>All the proposed changes are subject to regulation changes.</p>	
4.3	The extra revenue generated would then reduce the impact on the non-protected benefits claimants. At this stage it is likely that there would be an approximate reduction in the support offered to working age claimants of about 10% to 15%. The scheme proposed generally mirrors the current Council Tax Benefit scheme with some changes. For example, Second Adult Rebate will be removed under the proposals.	
4.4	The consultation on the proposals is live and runs until 2 November 2012. As part of this process Erewash Borough Council have written to all working age Council Tax Benefit claimants. We have also completed eight roadshow events. The Benefits team are proactively telephoning Benefits customers to tell them about the proposed changes.	
4.5	The Chair then invited Paul Jameson (PJ), Local Area Forum Liaison Officer, Derbyshire County Council to speak.	
4.6	PJ distributed a briefing note regarding pedestrian crossings and traffic flow issues on Derby Road and Tamworth Road, Long Eaton.	
4.7	<p><u>Question from resident</u> How do you monitor people going through traffic lights when they are on red? Specific reference was made to the controlled crossing on Fields Farm Road; a resident reported that vehicles are regularly seen travelling through the signals whilst still on red.</p>	

	<p><i>Paul Jameson, Local Area Forum Liaison Officer, Derbyshire County Council:</i> I believe that, if there are clear safety issues associated with vehicles travelling through signals on red, then CREST (Casualty Reduction Enforcement Support Team) may be able to give consideration to installing cameras. A set of criteria (relating to injury collisions) will be applied when considering any requests, similar to those required for safety cameras. I'll carry out some investigations to see whether this would be a possibility at the Fields Farm Road crossing.</p> <p><i>Further response received from Paul Jameson, Local Area Forum Liaison Officer, Derbyshire County Council on 17/12/12:</i> Derbyshire County Council's Traffic & Safety Team have confirmed that there are no visibility issues on the approaches to the signals.</p> <p>Details of the reported problems have subsequently been forwarded for the information of local police officers so that they are aware of the issue when in the area.</p> <p>A request has also been submitted to the Police's Traffic Management Officer, asking that the matter be forwarded to CREST to consider whether there is any justification for the use of enforcement cameras at this location.</p> <p><i>Further response received from Paul Jameson, Local Area Forum Liaison Officer, Derbyshire County Council on 02/01/13:</i> The Police's Traffic Management Officer has advised that there have been no recorded personal injury collisions at this location within the last 3 years and, as such, the current situation would not justify the consideration of red light camera technology. However, CREST do visit Fields Farm Road with mobile speed enforcement; 2 visits were made in November 2012 with a total of 15 offenders being detected and one visit was made in December 2012 with 10 offenders being detected [information provided 24.12.12].</p>	
5	Questions for Officers	
5.1	<p><u>No parking signs, Long Eaton High Street</u> What is the latest news regarding the introduction of 'no cycling' signs for Long Eaton High Street?</p> <p><i>Paul Jameson, Local Area Forum Liaison Officer, Derbyshire County Council:</i> Please see me at the end of this meeting to discuss this matter further so that I can investigate it.</p> <p><i>Further response from Paul Jameson, Local Area Forum Liaison Officer, Derbyshire County Council on 17/12/12:</i> Derbyshire County Council's Traffic & Safety Team are due to carry out a review of the whole area, particularly relating to cycles. As standard, a consultation will be undertaken as part of any proposed changes to Traffic Regulation Orders in the area. Due to the forthcoming review, there are no plans to erect any additional signs as there could potentially be changes to the regulations in the area.</p>	

	<p>No dates can be provided as to when the review might be completed. The Traffic & Safety Team have a particularly high workload at present, with a number of competing priorities and, as such, no dates can be provided as to when the review might be completed.</p> <p>Any progress in this matter will be reported to the Community Forum, as and when available.</p>	
5.2	<p><u>Ambulance stations (Question received in advance)</u> What about the changes to ambulance stations? Can anyone tell us how Erewash will fair?</p> <p><i>Subsequent response from Ian Marsden, Consultation Officer, Erewash Borough Council:</i> Details of the East Midlands Ambulance Service's consultation 'Being the Best' can be found on their website www.emas.nhs.uk. The consultation is now live and runs until Monday 17 December 2012.</p>	
5.3	<p><u>Costa Coffee, Long Eaton</u> Friends of people sat at the outside coffee tables are stopping to talk to them and, at times, they are blocking the pavement causing congestion and blocking the pedestrian crossing. Can the wardens move people on?</p> <p><i>Dave Bramwell, Head of Green Space and Street Scene, Erewash Borough Council:</i> Andy Savage is our Warden for Long Eaton town centre. I will pass this comment on to him to monitor the situation. Wardens would normally only get involved if the matter involved anti-social behaviour.</p>	<p><i>Dave Bramwell to pass the information on to Andy Savage, Neighbourhood Warden.</i></p>
5.4	<p><u>Empty domestic properties</u> Why are so many houses being left empty when there is a shortage?</p> <p><i>Ian Marsden, Consultation Officer, Erewash Borough Council:</i> I will seek a response from Erewash Borough Council's Housing Strategy Officer.</p> <p><i>Graham Parker, Housing Renewal Officer, Erewash Borough Council:</i> In response to the question raised at Community Forum; I work in the Housing Renewal team and am lead officer dealing with long term private sector empty properties (those that have been empty for over 12 months). Erewash Borough Council is on a par with other local authorities in Derbyshire and the East Midlands regarding overall numbers. There have been slight increases due to the recession and market forces. We use enforcement measures when possible, working in partnership with planners and building inspectors. We write to all long term property owners three times a year and investigate individual cases. Funding streams are presently very scarce, however the Borough Council's Housing Strategy Officer is working with a housing association to purchase and renovate long term empty properties. We have also been nominated as one of twelve councils in the country as a pilot for the National Empty Homes Fund. This can be made available to finance renovation work to enable empty property to be brought back into use. We are currently looking at eight problem properties within the borough and will be reporting to Councillors on</p>	<p><i>Ian Marsden to contact Tessa Paul, Housing Strategy Officer</i></p>

	the possibility of financing statutory action such as Compulsory Purchase.	
5.5	<p><u>Leopold Street path</u> What is the latest progress?</p> <p><i>Dave Bramwell, Head of Green Space and Street Scene, Erewash Borough Council:</i> Members of the public claimed that the access point from Leopold Street to West Park was a bridleway. Derbyshire County Council (DCC) investigated the matter and decided that they wanted the gate to re-open. The property owner (the gate is situated on their land) appealed against the opening. This is still the current situation. Erewash Borough Council has suggested moving the gate on to West Park (Erewash Borough Council owned land) and organising for our park ranger service to lock and unlock the gates at the appropriate times. No progress has been made with this suggestion.</p>	
5.6	<p><u>Police Panel meetings</u> These have not taken place at the Outlook Centre in Petersham recently. Why?</p> <p><i>Inspector Phil Laing, Derbyshire Constabulary:</i> The Panel meetings are still every three months. The location of the Panel meeting is moved around the community to allow different people to attend. It is advertised in the paper and on the website.</p>	
5.7	<p><u>Police and Crime Commissioner Elections</u> How do people find out who the candidates are?</p> <p><i>Councillor Chris Corbett:</i> Leaflet drops will no doubt commence from all the candidates involved. Information regarding the candidates is available via the internet at www.choosemypcc.org.uk from 26 October 2012.</p>	
5.8	<p><u>Erewash Borough Council pension fund</u> A resident referred to the Long Eaton and South Forum meeting notes from 12 June 2012:</p> <p><i>A resident asked a question relating to the pension fund liabilities of the Council. Ian Sankey stated that two years ago the figure was approximately £34 million. Due to fluctuating stock markets this figure reduced to approximately £24 million and plans are in place to manage this position over the long term with increasing employee contributions likely.</i></p> <p>The resident asked for a further update on how Erewash Borough Council is looking to meet their pension obligations.</p> <p><i>Ian Marsden, Consultation Officer, Erewash Borough Council:</i> I will seek a response from David Watson, Head of Finance, Erewash Borough Council.</p> <p><i>David Watson, Head of Finance, Erewash Borough Council:</i> The Erewash Borough Council scheme is managed as part of the wider Derbyshire County Council pension fund. This is re-valued</p>	<p><i>Ian Marsden to contact David Watson, Head of Finance</i></p>

	<p>every three years to ensure that contributions are sufficient to sustain the fund into the long term. This includes the gradual recovery of any deficit over a number of years. The scheme itself is part of the national Local Government Pension Scheme for which the Government is proposing new regulations from 2014 which will involve higher overall employee contributions and the move to a career-average calculation of benefits rather than final salary. These measures should also help to make the scheme affordable over the longer term.</p>	
5.9	<p><u>Actions following the Long Eaton and South Community Forum on 12 June 2012</u></p> <p>The Chair noted two positive actions following the previous Forum meeting. Firstly, the dog fouling petition was presented to the Full Council meeting and Councillors endorsed the proposals.</p> <p>Secondly, the resident suggestion of introducing a text messaging service to report dog fouling was taken on board and has now been launched. The number is 07792 701 583.</p>	
5.10	<p><u>Future Forum topics</u></p> <p>The control of flooding within the borough was suggested.</p> <p><i>Following the meeting one resident approached Ian Marsden, Consultation Officer, Erewash Borough Council to suggest that a presentation be given on the work of the Erewash Community Safety Partnership.</i></p>	
	<p>Date and time of next meeting Wednesday 13 February 2013, 7:00pm. Long Eaton Town Hall</p>	