



## Osgoldcross Forum

Minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2009 at Womersley Village Hall.

Members present: J Vause (in the chair), E Beechey, B Crossdale, F Blackburn, K Westwood, L Amerigo, K Ronksley, R Dunning, M Langhan, M Whittles, M Skirrow, I Sewell, L Ruxton, A Cooke, J Davie, K Walton, A Pound, S Laurenson, and G Ivey.

### **Item 1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from S Ryder, J Mitchell, R Stephenson, H Bickerton and J Stables.

### **Item 2. Minutes of the last meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2008**

The minutes were proposed, seconded and agreed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

### **Item 3. Matters arising from the Minutes**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

### **Item 4. Selby District Council's Waste Collections**

Sarah Smith, an officer with Selby District Council's Environmental Services Department was present to give Members details of the new waste collection service to be introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009. The old contract was now 10 years old and expired at the end of September 2009.

Sarah explained that the new contract combined domestic waste collection with street cleaning. It also would see the introduction of alternate week waste collection. Currently, households have 8 collections per month (waste and recyclable material). The new contract will introduce 6 collections per month. Many of the waste bins that are emptied now are less than half full and so the new contract will not mean bins will be overflowing by the time they are emptied. The present budget can no longer pay for weekly collections. Money would have to come from other services for it to continue. Landfill tax is currently £32 per tonne of waste sent to landfill and is set to rise by £8 every year until 2010/11. Selby District Council paid £630,000 in landfill tax last year. The Government imposes fines on local authorities that do not meet its targets.

Selby District Council has calculated that the new contract will achieve a 10-14% improvement in the amount of recycled material. Some households do not recycle any material and it is hoped the new contract will encourage them to do so.

Sarah explained that the new contract was not just for financial and environmental reasons. Improvements in the service, such as the collection of plastics will be introduced. The collection day will be the same for each collection. Difficult access and storage at properties is being considered. Electronic recording of all aspects of the service is being considered which could help to explain why a collection at a certain house or on a particular street has not taken place. At the moment, a household

with 7 or more residents receives a larger bin. This could be reduced to 5 or more residents in the household. No fines or penalties will be imposed for households that overfill their bins.

A communication and engagement strategy has begun. Selby District Council is encouraging waste minimisation. Many other local authorities have already begun alternate week waste collections. We can use the information already gained by them.

The Chair then asked Members if they had any questions for Sarah.

A Member said that when snow was on the ground, the waste bins in Beal were not emptied on the date due and residents had to wait for them to be emptied on the following date due. The Member asked if, under the new scheme, would they have had to wait for a month, the next date due? Sarah replied that the new contract would be set up differently. Contingencies will be made to empty the bins on a different day.

A Member asked if the current arrangements to use the Wakefield Council Household Waste Centre at Ferrybridge would change. Sarah said the arrangement had nothing to do with the contract.

A Member asked Sarah if she thought there would be more rats, flies and flytipping when the new contract is introduced. Sarah replied that issues with vermin are a very common misconception. If plastics can be taken out of the waste bins and recycled, under normal circumstances, bins will not be overfilled. If the bin lids are shut, vermin and flies will not be a problem. Flytipping is taken very seriously. Selby District Council has invested in CCTV cameras in order to gain evidence against flytippers.

A Member stated that her village currently had a linesman that tidied the village and asked if this would remain the same and if the litter that was picked up would be recycled. Sarah replied that the new contract would include key performance indicators. A lot more monitoring would take place and operators would be deployed where they are needed rather than on a weekly or monthly basis.

A Member said that Sarah had used the expressions “working with” and “we” in her presentation and asked how she could say “working with” when Selby District Council had not consulted with the public before the decision was made to alter the waste collection service. Sarah said that a full public consultation did not take place but Selby Citizens Panel was consulted in 2007 when the decision was made. The Member said that it was a statutory consultation to hold a public consultation.

A Member asked what Selby District Council was going to do to encourage recycling from remote properties, as residents such as farmers have to take their bins to the kerbside. He asked if they would have extra recycling boxes. Sarah said that all residences in the Selby district are currently served. For remote households, it may mean that collection vehicles have to travel down farm tracks.

A Member asked if Selby District Council had consulted with the local authorities that had tried fortnightly waste collections but had returned to weekly collections. Sarah said that it had not but there were many reasons why they had returned to weekly collections. The Member said that the fact that there had been no consultation with these authorities makes a mockery of the whole consultation process.

A Member asked Sarah what she thought about the report that stated there was an increase in vermin and flies with a fortnightly collection system. Sarah said that as long as all waste is in a closed bin, there would be no vermin.

A Member said that recycling in rural areas is difficult and that Selby District Council could consider recycling centres in villages but it might not be satisfactory to local residents. Residents need more education on the matter as the new scheme started in six months. He said that Selby District Council needed to communicate with residents to tell them what is going to happen. Sarah said that until the contract is let, she could not tell residents too much. She said that the contract should be signed in the following few weeks and then she could start to publicise what is going to happen.

Councillor Andy Pound stated that he was a member of Selby District Council's Environmental Board. He said that officers wrote the report and councillors voted on it. Selby District Council are moving towards 40% recycling. If plastics are recycled, 50% will be achieved and so a bin will not be filled in twice the time between collections. He then asked Sarah if the recycling boxes would still be used. Sarah replied that the contractors had been asked to quote for both – bins and boxes. She said that a sorted recycling scheme, where householders sort their recyclable rubbish, gives better quality rubbish.

A Member said that there would be a problem at households with small gardens if even more recycling containers were introduced. She also said that Selby District Council had been very clever to introduce alternate waste collections in autumn when the sun will not shine on the rubbish and make it smell. Sarah replied that the number and size of waste containers is being considered but there is no simple solution. On the second point, Sarah said that the present contract expires at the end of September and so the new system must start in October.

A Member said that he would like to issue a challenge to district councillors to come and talk to a well-publicised public meeting and tell residents what the proposals are. District Councillor Gillian Ivey said that if several parish councils wished to jointly organise a public meeting, she would attend.

A Member asked Sarah if anything could be done through schools to educate parents about recycling. Sarah said that it was something she wished to introduce.

The Chair asked members if they would like the Forum to organise a meeting for all parish councillors in the area and invite Selby District Council to give a thorough presentation on the new contract. A Member said that he did not see the point of such a meeting as Selby District Council had already made the decision to introduce the new scheme. He said that his parish council had already asked residents if they wanted a fortnightly waste collection and if they would pay more for a better service. Both questions had been answered with an overwhelming no.

Another Member said that he had raised this issue at his parish council meeting and nobody was bothered.

The Chair asked for a show of hands for who wanted the Forum to organise the meeting. All but one Member showed that they wanted the meeting.

Sarah said that she would be interested to know of any comments or difficulties that could be identified by representatives of residents at the proposed meeting. The new contract has been drawn up but aspects of how it is implemented can be altered.

The Chair thanked Sarah Smith for her attendance.

### **Item 5. The Osgoldcross Forum's Youth Board**

The Chair of the Youth Board, Andy Pound, reported that the questionnaire to be used for the youth survey had been finalised and that Selby 4Youth workers would shortly begin the consultation.

### **Item 6. The Osgoldcross Forum's Environment Board**

Frank Blackburn told members that the Environment Board had been collecting information on the various wind farm proposals for the area to ensure Members were kept up to date. He also reported that the Board was looking closely at starting a scheme to recycle batteries.

### **Item 7. The Osgoldcross Forum's Highways Board**

The Chair of the Highways Board, Eric Beechey, reported that North Yorkshire Police Traffic Division had rejected the proposed "quiet lanes" project for Kirk Smeaton. The Board was now working on proposals to extend a cycle route from West to South Yorkshire through North Yorkshire.

### **Item 8. The Ergon House Project**

The Chair reported that the office part of a building known as Ergon House in Eggborough was available to rent. He said that he had a verbal agreement with the owner for the Forum to lease it. Two of the offices could be sub-let by the Forum to be used as a fish and chip shop, providing an income of £7,800 per annum. The project is in the very early stages but the Forum's Executive Committee was working on identifying service providers and uses for the building.

A Member asked who would pick up the tab if things went wrong. The Chair answered that the Forum as a whole would be liable, not its members.

A Member suggested that general surgical procedures could take place there. The Chair said that was the type of suggestion that is needed. He said that people within the community would be needed to give their expertise and experience.

A Member said that the project must not take any business away from village halls. The Chair said that had already been decided by the Executive Committee.

Members agreed that the project should proceed.

### **Item 9. Payments**

The Chief Executive reported that there was £754.62 in the account.

Payments due were:

Postage - £6.40

Paper - £25.88

All agreed to pay.

### **Item 10. Any Other Business**

A Member said that all parish councils should use the Forum more for the information it could provide and asked if an open discussion page could be put on the website for its members. Members agreed that it would be a good idea and the Chair asked the Chief Executive to enable this.

The Chief Executive reported that Eggborough Police House would be opening to the public on May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009.

The Chief Executive updated members on the First Responder Scheme, reporting that it had suffered a few problems with some volunteers but was now running smoothly.

**Item 11. Date and venue of next meeting.**

The next meeting of the Forum will take place on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2009 at 7.00 pm, at Balne Parish Rooms.

Meeting closed at 8.55pm.