

## ***COULBY NEWHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL***

### **Minutes of the meeting held MONDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2015**

**PRESENT** Councillor Jan Brunton, Ken Sherwood, Paul Robertson, Debi Whitehead (Chair) and residents

**APOLOGIES** Councillors Geoff Cole and Joe Culley, Ann Wood, Paul Thompson, Keith Cook

**Paul Robertson** spoke about Government Environment Policies and enforcing the Law in Middlesbrough pertaining to those policies. The function recently transferred to Ken Sherwood following a review. He said the Council must follow the rules but they do try their best to make the punishment fit the crime.

In some cases a Council Officer may issue an On the Spot Fine if he sees anyone dropping litter or allowing his dog to foul without clearing it up. A resident may be sent a letter warning him a Fine is imminent unless the offence is stopped eg putting the bin out on the wrong day, parking on double yellow lines, allowing the dog to foul etc. If the offence continues the final act could be a Court Summons where the punishment will be decided. Paul said they always give the resident the opportunity to put things right.

He gave examples of the penalties resulting from Court Cases which varied from £35 for breaking the Council's Waste Collection rules. to a resident being Fined £8,000 in Court for burning waste and repairing vehicles in the street.

Asked if dropping litter included Council Workers too – sometimes residents have to pick up leftovers after the Bin Collections - Paul said 'yes' They follow up on information given. He said it's always best to give Ken Sherwood as many details as possible.

**Ken Sherwood** is responsible for overseeing the Re-cycling of Middlesbrough's waste. In 2013 a Government Grant of £3.1m was awarded to the Council to pay for the new coloured lidded bins and the system we are using today. It's a great success and re-cycling has increased from 35% to 80% with 23% less waste going to the incinerator and with much positive feedback from residents. Middlesbrough also received 4 brand new Collection vehicles..

A recent hiccup in the system centred on pizza boxes. BIFFA Collection Teams were rejecting some Blue bins containing pizza boxes for various reasons eg food still stuck on, greasy bases, those with clingfilm - at the rate of 800 per day - from 100 per week. Residents were inconvenienced and the publicity about this went nationwide.

Ken explained that the reason for tightening the rules began with changing world markets including the impact of a downturn in the Chinese economy that have initiated a knock on effect to even include our card and paper waste. This has led to increasing costs and therefore we are now having to be more selective in the kind of waste accepted.

BIFFA was asking the Council for an increase of at least £400,000 to continue along with future discussions on changing prices. On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September the Council decided to terminate the contract with BIFFA and do the job 'In House.' meaning fixed prices and Council control.

*"Do we get to keep the new wagons?"* 'Yes. The vehicles were purchased from the Government Grant and are the property of the Council and return to the Council when the service returns to in house collections .

Ken outlined some of the distasteful items the workers at the re-cycling company have to handpick out of the conveyor system when sorting our re-cyclables - including cartons full of food and dirty nappies.. It is for this reason that we will need to continue to ensure that residents put only those items acceptable for recycling in their blue bins. Ken reminded residents that they now had stickers on their bins detailing what was and was not acceptable.

#### **Residents asked.....**

*"Can re-cyclables now be put in plastic carriers then into the Blue bin?"*

No. Everything should be loose. The carriers clog up the machine. Very soon there'll be fewer carriers about – shops are going to charge for them.

*"Can we re-cycle plastic bleach bottles?"* Yes

*"What about window envelopes?"* Tear off the window and put paper half in the Blue bin and the rest in the Black bin - or put the whole envelope in the black bin.

*"Will the bin men take additional green waste next to the green bin?"* No. You can have a second green bin free by contacting the Council . Any more are to pay for. Up to a max of 4 bins per household

***"Any chance of extending the green waste collection season?"*** No, it's decided by cost, but you can take your Green waste along to Newham Grange Leisure Farm 365 days of the year. Or take it to Portrack Household Waste Recycling Site– it all goes from those sites for composting.

*"Sometimes the green facility at the Farm is so full it's too high to reach up to for dumping".*  
Also at the Farm - there was some confusion about bin liners .

*"Will the Council take away asbestos?"* No, we don't have a licence

*"Is there a special scheme for Washing Machines and TVs etc.?"*  
They are junk jobs - to be paid for ( £10)

***"Is it a waste of time shredding paperwork containing personal details?"***

It's best to shred then put the shredded paper loose in the blue lidded bin, or put in the black bin for the Incinerator. Once it's in the Council system there's no need to worry. But shred for your own peace of mind. .

*"A few years ago Coulby Newham held several Skip Drives which proved to be very successful for getting rid of big items. What about the Council doing this from time to time?"*

We used to but they were abused eg by business people who came along and filled them before residents could do so. We have no Skip Vehicles now.

*"I 'm finding it difficult accessing the Waste Collection Calendar on the Council Website"*

We've had some Internet problems recently but please try again. Anyone who does not have a computer can phone 01642 726001 and ask for a calendar to be posted to them. There is also re-cycling and waste disposal information in the 'Love Middlesbrough' magazine.

**Finally, all Pizza Boxes - for the Black Bin - please.**

**Councillor Brunton** encouraged residents to go along to town on **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September** - the date for the **Town Meal** - always enjoyable. Overlooking the event will be the 'Holiday Inn Express' the newly opened **hotel on Albert Road** where, she said, business is good, as it is at the 'Middlesbrough Hotel' formerly

named the Dragonara, too. Also in town - by popular demand, the statue of Stan Hollis VC is soon to be erected near the Cenotaph.

Asked at the last meeting “*who owns the Sports Village at Prissick Base ?*” she told the meeting Middlesbrough Council does, helped by the proceeds from the sale of Clairville Stadium for housing. British Cycling contributed £500,000 towards the cost which means they will have some involvement there too.

Councillor Brunton also answered a previous question regarding the installation of supply of electricity from Stokesley for the forthcoming Police Headquarters at Hemlington . Among other things - the money must be paid up front.

In Coulby Newham, residents have complained about customers double parking at Lingfield Ash Newsagent/Post Office/Off Licence making it dangerous for residents exiting Willowbank. Double yellow lines have been suggested. A Council Officer has visited the area and not spotted any problems at the time. She asked if anyone seeing double parking or any dangerous situation would take photographs and send them to the Council .

The same sort of thing is happening at schools in town . Parking enforcement officers visit schools occasionally, and outside of town areas such as shopping centres but their main work is in town centre areas. There are discussions ongoing on how to merge services to provide a townwide service. But the next project may be – our area. Be warned.

A resident said youngsters have been playing around on the roof of Lingfield Countryside Centre. He was concerned as he knew there was asbestos in the roof. Noted.

KFC have yet to get back to the Council with their report on how the output of smells and sounds from their Fast Food business will affect the nearby residents.

### **Any Other Business**

The Chair asked if residents had any comments to make regarding our Community Council Boundary in the light of changes that have been made to quite a few other areas.. Everyone was happy with Coulby Newham’s boundary of The B1365/ Brass Castle Lane/Marton West Beck/ The Parkway - road.

Regarding the various forms of Gambling and the present review – no comments to note.

Aldi recently opened a store on Dalby Way with alcohol on sale and showing a Liquor Licence. The Licensing Department had not notified the Community Council of the Application as usual and therefore it was not included on any Agenda. The Chair invited comments tonight. There was some discussion.

No objections.

***The meeting closed at 9pm      Thanks to all who attended.***