



Minutes of the meeting of the SECTION 136 CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE held on THURSDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 1999 at 9.00 pm

Present: Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils

J Geary
J Jeffreys

Milton Keynes Urban Parishes

D Labbett
D Pafford
A Francis
D Mynard

Milton Keynes Council

Councillor K Wilson
Councillor Mabbutt

Officers: A Hudson (Head of Infrastructure), P Robinson (Corporate Policy Officer) and T Mabbott (Committee Manager)

Apologies: G Mann and D Scarland

SC4/00 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 1999, were received.

SC5/00 LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE BEST VALUE PILOT REVIEW

The Committee noted Local Councils had been requested to complete a questionnaire as part of the Best Value Pilot Review for Landscape Maintenance. The responses received were reported to the Committee.

The Committee expressed concern regarding the monitoring of the quality and efficiency of some contractors' arrangements. It was noted that long term sickness of two of the contract monitoring officers was causing difficulties, but it was noted that individual instances, if reported to the Environment Directorate, would be investigated.

SC6/00

SECTION 136 FUTURE FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS

The Committee noted that a letter had been sent to Parishes from the Leader of the Council asking for comments on proposals to change Section 136 Funding arrangements. It was reported that the Council was considering changing the annual increase for those Councils in protection from £2.50 to £3.00, as a means of indexing and of recouping costs. There were no objections from the Committee to this proposal.

SC7/00

ITEMS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILS

(a) Ragwort Growth and Damaged Kerbing in Emberton

The Committee noted the concerns expressed by Emberton Parish Council about poorly kept or overgrown verges. It was agreed that this would be investigated.

(b) Management of Community Football Pitches

The Committee noted that some difficulties had been caused for some Community Associations running recreational facilities, with regard to their use by football teams for unofficial practice. A letter had been sent by the Council informing tenants of the penalties for unofficial use. Community Associations did not appear to have received this letter.

Parish Councils had ensured that these rules were strictly enforced. In some instances, to stopped from training on Parish Council pitches had simply moved to neighbouring sports grounds, managed by Community Associations, and disrupted their operation.

It was agreed that all those running community facilities should be sent the same correspondence from the Council and receive the same back-up and support in the event of their authority being disputed.

(c) Disposal of Rubbish

The Committee noted instances of green waste being left behind after tree clearing work had been carried out, and agreed that this was becoming an increasing problem. It was agreed that, where the Environment Directorate were informed of individual cases, strenuous efforts would be made to establish who was responsible.

SC8/00

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Committee noted that the dates of the meetings of the Consultative Committee for the remainder of 1999/2000 are as follows:

9 December 1999

9 March 2000

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 9.41 PM