

**ITEM 2**  
**SECTION 136**  
**CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**  
**9 MARCH 2000**



Minutes of the meeting of the SECTION 136 CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE held on THURSDAY 9 DECEMBER 1999 at 9.00 pm

**Present:** Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils

G Mann  
B Tapp

Milton Keynes Urban Parishes

A Francis  
D Labbett  
D Pafford  
D Scarland

Milton Keynes Council

Councillor K Wilson

**Officers:** A Colyer (Assistant Treasurer (Corporate Finance)), A Hudson (Head of Infrastructure), A Prockter (Landscape and Countryside Manager) P Robinson (Senior Policy Officer) and T Mabbott (Committee Manager)

**Also Present:** K Owen

**Apologies:** J Geary

**SC9/00 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 1999 were received.

**SC10/00 SECTION 136 FUTURE FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS**

The Committee noted the result of consultation with parishes on proposals to change Section 136 funding arrangements for 2000/2001. It was further noted that the only immediate change likely to take place in the next year would be the change in the annual increase for those Councils in protection from £2.50 to £3.00.

The Committee noted that Parishes had expressed concerns about the effectiveness of some of the landscaping being carried out by Milton Keynes Council, and that some areas, such as footpaths, were not being adequately maintained. It was noted that, in the first instance, Parishes should work directly with the contractor to resolve difficulties, although in areas with multiple contractors this could prove difficult.

The Committee noted that the results of a pilot Best Value review of Landscape Maintenance were due to be discussed at the next meeting of the Best Value Working Party. The Committee agreed that it would be helpful if the results of the pilot review could be reported to the next meeting.

#### **SC11/00**

#### **ITEMS RAISED BY LOCAL COUNCILS**

(a) Ragwort Growth and Damaged Kerbing in Emberton

The Committee noted that Emberton Parish Council had yet to receive a reply to its concerns about poorly kept or overgrown verges. It was agreed that this would be addressed and that the appropriate inspector would be asked to liaise with the Parish Council directly.

In response to the issue of ragwort removal, representatives of Milton Keynes Council suggested that co-ordinating teams of volunteers to pull ragwort would be the most effective way of dealing with the problem. It was noted that Milton Keynes Council would be willing to co-ordinate such 'ragwort teams'.

#### **SC12/00**

#### **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Committee noted that the dates of the meetings of the Consultative Committee for 1999/2000 and 2000/01 were as follows:

9 March 2000

22 June 2000

7 September 2000

7 December 2000

8 March 2001

All meetings would commence at 7.00 pm at the Civic Offices.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 9.24 PM