

Minutes**RESIDENTS' AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
POLICY OVERVIEW COMMITTEE**

6 December 2012



**Meeting held at Committee Room 3a - Civic
Centre, High Street, Uxbridge UB8 1UW**

	<p>Committee Members Present: Councillors Susan O'Brien (Chairman) Mary O'Connor (Vice-Chairman) Lynne Allen Kuldeep Lakhmana Carol Melvin David Payne Michael White David Yarrow</p> <p>LBH Officers Present: Nigel Dicker, Deputy Director, Public Safety & Environment John Purcell, Bereavement Services Manager and Registrar Mike Price, Civil Protection Manager Paul Richards, Green Spaces, Sports & Leisure Senior Manager Ed Shaylor, ASB & Investigations Service Manager Nadia Williams, Democratic Services</p>	
44.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (<i>Agenda Item 1</i>)</p> <p>None.</p>	
45.	<p>DECLARATION OF INTEREST IN MATTERS COMING BEFORE THIS MEETING (<i>Agenda Item 2</i>)</p> <p>There were no declarations of interests notified.</p>	
46.	<p>TO CONFIRM THAT ALL ITEMS MARKED PART 1 WILL BE CONSIDERED IN PUBLIC AND THAT ANY ITEMS MARKED PART 2 WILL BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE (<i>Agenda Item 3</i>)</p> <p>It was confirmed that all items on the agenda marked as Part 1 would be considered in public.</p>	
47.	<p>TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15 NOVEMBER 2012 (<i>Agenda Item 4</i>)</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2012 were agreed as an accurate record.</p>	

48.	<p>REVIEW 1: REVIEW OF REGULATIONS AND BYELAWS RELATING TO CEMETERIES AND BURIAL GROUNDS WITHIN HILLINGDON (<i>Agenda Item 5</i>)</p> <p>The Committee discussed the revised draft regulations that had been circulated electronically prior to the meeting. Members welcomed the document and thanked officers for producing a worthwhile and workable document.</p> <p>During discussion, members highlighted and welcomed the fact that the suggested maximum period for the grant of ‘exclusive right of burial’ had been set at 30 years. This could be extended in 10 year blocks for up to 100 years from the date it was granted.</p> <p>Members also welcomed the fact that the 30 years of ‘exclusive right of burial’ had been tied in with the requirement for works on grave space to be carried out only by a Memorial Mason accredited to the British Registration of Approved Monumental Masons Scheme (BRAMM) or National Association of Memorial Masons (NAMM), and subject to a “Guarantee of Conformity” granted by the mason for a minimum of 30 years.</p> <p>The Committee indicated that residents must have the option of selecting the type of graves that was preferable to them. However, it was noted that service users had to be aware of the additional cost implications to those preferring to opt for the full ‘traditional’ grave, due to higher maintenance costs involved, as well as which cemetery could accommodate the type of grave requested (i.e. lawn or traditional).</p> <p>The committee members acknowledged the fact that maintenance of Cemeteries and Burial grounds were recently brought back in-house as this would have been one of the recommendations of the report.</p> <p>The Committee considered the following recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Officers to support any ‘friends’ groups set up relating to cemeteries. 2. Give consideration to the purchase of machinery to break down clay soil which could be used to fill up graves 3. Conduct safety inspection of memorials, as recommended by the Health & Safety Executive and notify grant owners of the outcome. 4. Re-instate the supply of ‘user friendly’ leaflets setting out regulations to funeral directors for distribution to bereaved families and to re-establish relations with funeral directors. 5. Winter rolling programme to be publicised to residents to advise them if works could not be completed on time, when it will be re-scheduled for. 6. Consider the provision of toilet facilities and the provision of a shelter for families to congregate at Cherry Lane cemetery in the absence of a place of prayer. 7. Give consideration to what actions could be taken to address the issue of the state of disrepair of the arch at the entrance of Hillingdon cemetery. 8. That officer's continue to work closely with the Safer 	Action by
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relating to this issue would usually be reported via the Customer Contact Centre, where staff would also try to establish whether the reported noise nuisance was persistent.

- There was a distinction between one off noise (Statutory) such as noise from parties (loud music), which may be investigated immediately and non statutory noise, which are dealt with in other ways.
- The volume of calls received by the Council tended to be higher (as shown in the graph in Annex A attached to the report) during the summer months, mainly relating to parties and loud music, than in the winter months where issues related mainly to dogs barking, domestic noise and shouting.
- Many noise nuisance issues occurred in the evenings or at weekends and initial out of hours inspections of noise from commercial, as well as domestic premises were carried out by ASBIT.
- Two officers worked four evenings per week as follows:
 - Thursday 5pm to 2am (responding to calls from 8pm).
 - Friday and Saturday 6pm to 3am (responding to calls from 9pm).
 - Sunday 4pm to 1am (responding to calls from 7pm).
- Suggested consideration be given to the issues of meeting residents' expectations of responding to one-off noise nuisance and managing the expectations where noise was persistent (including daytime noise nuisance).

During discussions the following points were raised and noted:

- That although there had been changes in the law relating to Temporary Events Notices (TEMP), the control of noise had not been weakened.
- Further clarification was needed regarding the change in the Law on TEMP Notices.
- Although no out of hours routine coverage was in place for Bank Holidays, arrangements were usually put in place on an ad hoc basis.

Pest Infestation/Waste Management

Nigel Dicker, Deputy Director, Public Safety and Environment presented a verbal outline of the Council's arrangements for Pest Infestation/Waste Management as follows:

- Pest control and waste management were covered by different departments in the Council.
- Recognised the need for the different units to work as a team to solve problems.
- Suggested that the approach had been fragmented in dealing with issues relating to Commercial waste and issues relating to residents putting rubbish out at the wrong time for collection.
- The issue of how waste was presented for collection needed to be examined, as residents would need to be made aware of how they contained waste and how best to present them for

	<p>collection days.</p> <p>The Committee raised the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about issues relating to people living in social housing, particularly about confusion around who was responsible for dealing with pest control and issue of finance. • A plan to be developed and implemented to deal with recurring problems of pest infestation arising from commercial premises. • That there should be inter-department cohesion so that action could be taken against persistent occurrences after warning had been given. <p>During discussion it was suggested that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There needed to be a clear definition of what the Council classed as pests for residents to be aware of. • Clarification of what the Council was responsible for dealing with and who was responsible for the costs incurred. • Establish if there were policies in place for dealing with rats and mice and check whether these needed to be reviewed. • Consider the legislation relating to public health issues and environmental laws and explore the issue of enforcement. • The content of the Council's website should be reviewed to ensure clarity for residents. <p>Resolved</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Committee agreed to conduct their second review topic on Pest Infestation and Waste Management. 2) Officers were requested to provide a draft scoping report at the meeting on 22 January 2013. 3) Relevant officers to attend the first witness session on 22 January 2013. 	Nadia Williams
50.	<p>2011/2012 REVIEW: MITIGATING THE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF TELECOMMUNICATION MASTS AND CABINETS IN THE LONDON BOROUGH OF HILLINGDON AND BEYOND – VERBAL UPDATE. (<i>Agenda Item 7</i>)</p> <p>Officers gave a verbal update on the recommendations. The update on the progress of the recommendations will be listed and circulated for information separately.</p>	<p>Action by</p> <p>James Rodger Gareth Gwynne Nadia Williams</p>
51.	<p>WORK PROGRAMME 2012/13 (<i>Agenda Item 8</i>)</p> <p>The Committee agreed the Work Programme for 2012/13.</p>	<p>Action by</p>

52.	FORWARD PLAN (<i>Agenda Item 9</i>) The Committee agreed the Forward Plan.	Action by
	The meeting, which commenced at 5.30 pm, closed at 7.24 pm.	

These are the minutes of the above meeting. For more information on any of the resolutions please contact Nadia Williams on 01895 277 655. Circulation of these minutes is to Councillors, Officers, the Press and Members of the Public.