

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Communities and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board (4)
held at 2.00 pm on Wednesday, 19 December 2018

Present:

Members: Councillor N Akhtar (Chair)
Councillor R Bailey
Councillor Clifford (substitute for Councillor H Sweet)
Councillor T Khan)
Councillor K Sandhu
Councillor T Sawdon)
Councillor R Thay
Councillor S Walsh

Other Members: Councillor R Lakha, Deputy Cabinet Member for City Services

Officers by Directorate:

Place: C Archer, S Bennett, N Cowper, G Holmes, J Logue,
N Thomas

Apologies Councillor H Sweet

Public Business

13. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

14. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 September, 2018 were agreed as a true record, subject to the inclusion of Councillor G Duggins in the list of attendees.

15. Recycled Road Surface Materials

The Scrutiny Board considered a Briefing Note and presentation at the meeting regarding the introduction of the latest road materials incorporating recycled waste plastics in asphalt mixes. The first trial site in Coventry is Montalt Road with further sites being planned for next year, including Birmingham Road.

Councillor J Mutton, Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Corporate Services attended the meeting as he had championed this innovation.

The presentation covered:-

- The background, including discussion with Cumbria County Council, who were the first Council in the country to use waste materials, and work undertaken with local asphalt producers to partner with the City Council to deliver this new sustainable solution for road surfacing.

- Coventry's expectations from the use of the product:-
 - To demonstrate the use of innovation in the Highways Services, identifying and supporting new solutions for the delivery of the highways service at both local and national level
 - Opportunity to improve outcomes for waste management
 - Potential to increase the time between maintenance life cycle intervention, due to increased flexibility in the material
- Details of the trial in Montalt Road, including the different types of recycled material mixes that are being trialled
- What has been learnt so far, including
 - Further research and development is required to see if the plastic can be fully distributed into the binder which holds the asphalt together
 - Work currently being undertaken with Tarmac to review and test the performance of all the products used in the trial
 - During the trials the tyre crumb appeared to perform better during the laying process
 - If the plastic pellet additive becomes standard in asphalt mixes and there is more usage across the industry, then there could be potential cost savings over standard mixes in the future
 - There would also be green benefits to the environment, less plastic waste destined for landfill, reduction in fossil fuel usage and a reduction in carbon footprint
- Monitoring:-
 - Following completion of the works, the various treated sections site will be routinely assessed over the coming years
 - Tarmac have carried out testing of skid resistance on the roads to see if there are any differences between the different materials
 - Tarmac are carrying out a series of lab testing to see how the plastic and tyre crumb perform
- Latest Position:-
 - In addition to the Montalt Road scheme, Sandy Lane/Cheveral Avenue has been successfully completed with MR8, recycled tyre rubber and a proprietary asphalt called Utilayer
 - Birmingham Road is the potential site for more plastic and recycled tyre rubber which is programmed for early 2019

- Finally, we are looking at whether we can find some suitable machine lay footway sites using tyre crumb

The Scrutiny Board questioned officers on aspects of the presentation, including:-

- Potential cost savings
- The trials and how the different materials used will be monitored in different weather conditions
- Re –instatement work by the utility companies in the trial sites

The officers were commended for their work in this regard.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Board notes and welcomes the work carried out by the Highways Teams in the innovative use of recycled plastic material in road asphalts and requests that the outcomes of the trials be reported to the Scrutiny Board in due course.

16. Flood Risk Management and Drainage Update

The Scrutiny Board considered a Briefing Note which provided an update on:-

- Progress with actions from the meeting of the Scrutiny Board held on April 2017 (details of which were appended to the Briefing Note)
- The Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) Statutory Consultee role on planning applications
- The flooding events at Butt Lane, Allesley and Broad Lane, Upper Eastern Green
- The activities undertaken during delivery of the annual Drainage Capital Programme
- Other key flood risk management activities since the last report.

In relation to the flooding events at Butt Lane, Allesley, at the invitation of the Chair, Councillor G Williams, a Bablake Ward Councillor, attended the meeting to discuss residents' concerns. The Scrutiny Board noted that a public meeting had been arranged for February, 2019 to inform local residents of the situation in relation to this matter.

The Scrutiny Board questioned officers on aspects of the Briefing Note, including:-

- Riparian rights in relation to the responsibility and ownership of the land and river.
- The Council's sandbag policy and how those residents who are at more risk of flood are communicated with.
- The effectiveness of new schemes in the City in preventing flooding, including Broad Lane
- Regular maintenance work undertaken by the team to ensure gullies are cleaned and to prevent blockages.

RESOLVED that the progress of the Local Flood Authority in drainage and flood risk matters be noted and welcomed.

17. Average Speed Enforcement

The Scrutiny Board considered a Briefing Note which provided an update on the installation of Average Speed Enforcement (ASE) cameras on the Ansty Road and the London Road.

The Briefing Note covered:-

- Why London Road and Ansty Road had been selected for ASE cameras
- The criteria for ASE implementation
- How ASE works
- ASE effectiveness and costs associated with its implementation
- Consultation undertaken with local residents
- When the ASE cameras will go-live (2 January, 2019) and how many penalty notices are expected to be issued
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The Scrutiny Board questioned officers on aspects of the Briefing Note including:-

- The delay in the implementation date (which had previously been indicated as 17 December, 2018)
- Enforcement issues, including the number of notices that are anticipated to be issued and secure data collection. It was noted that enforcement and any subsequent action was the responsibility of West Midlands Police
- Extending the scheme to other locations in the City
- Other benefits of the installation, including increased safety for cyclists and benefits to air pollution.

The Scrutiny Board expressed their disappointment that penalties would not be issued over the Christmas period.

RESOLVED:-

- 1) That the Scrutiny Board notes the progress of the installation ASE cameras in Coventry at locations that satisfy the criteria (Ansty Road and London Road)**
- 2) That the results of the first six months of operation be reported to the Scrutiny Board in due course and that a representative of West Midlands Police be invited to attend that meeting.**

18. Work Programme and Outstanding Issues 2018/19

The Scrutiny Board considered their Work Programme for 2018/19 and noted that an additional meeting had been arranged for 30 January, 2019.

RESOLVED that the Work Programme and outstanding issues be noted and that an update on public toilets be provided to all Members of the Scrutiny Board.

19. Any Other Items of Urgent Public Business

There were no items of urgent public business.

(Meeting closed at 3.30 pm)