

MINUTE

‘A&B’

Infrastructure Committee
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick
Tuesday 6 October 2009 at 10.00am

Present:

I J Hawkins	L Angus
L F Baisley	J Budge
A J Cluness	A T J Cooper
A T Doull	E L Fullerton
F B Grains	I J Hawkins
R S Henderson	J H Henry
A J Hughson	C H J Miller
R C Nickerson	F A Robertson
J G Simpson	C L Smith

In Attendance (Officers):

G Greenhill, Executive Director Infrastructure Services
S Cooper, Head of Environment and Building Services
D Macnae, Network and Design Manager, Roads
D Polson, Assistant Marine Superintendent
J Grant, Waste Service Manager
B Robb, Management Accountant
M Dunne, Service Manager – Environmental Health
J Emptage, Cleansing Service Manager
D Newcombe, Cleansing Service
G MacDonald, Cleansing Service
L Deyell, Graduate Placement
L Gair, Committee Officer

Apologies

W H Manson
G Robinson
J W G Wills

Chairperson:

Mrs I J Hawkins, Chairperson of the Committee, presided.

Circular:

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

Declarations of Interests

Mr R C Nickerson declared an interest in item 6 as a Consultant for KIMO.

Minutes of Meeting

The minutes of the Infrastructure Meeting held on 1 September 2009, having been circulated, was confirmed.

Attendance at External Meetings

Mr J H Henry	Scottish Council's Committee on Radioactive Substances, Edinburgh, 4 September 2009 KIMO UK, Edinburgh, 10 September 2009
R C Nickerson	NFLA National Steering Committee, Manchester, 18 September 2009.
L Angus	CPMR (Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions) Meeting, Gothenburg, 29 September – 3 October 2009

84/09 **Participatory Budgeting**

The Committee considered a report by the Service Manager - Environment Health, attached as Appendix 1.

The Service Manager, Environmental Health introduced the report. Mr L Angus said that whilst the outcome is to improve the area, it is designed to bring together diverse groups and understand the needs of the community. He said that a bid should be submitted through CoSLA and if successful a trial should be set up.

Mr A J Cluness advised that he was not opposed to this scheme but was of the opinion that it was designed for areas in Scotland larger than Lerwick. He said that in Shetland it should be possible to solve any difficulties, as there were close connections to the community. Mr Cluness said that whilst in principle it was fine, he did not think it was designed for an area like North Stanley Hill.

Mr J H Henry agreed with Mr Angus adding that small areas do have difficulties and said that this was an important trial.

Mrs E L Fullerton said that she supported the ethos of involving people however she was concerned that other groups already existed and this may be another layer of consultation that is not needed. She asked what would happen when the match funding disappeared and said that the Council may need to spend on the project to keep it running. The Service Manager, Environmental Health said that the process was different to how issues such as anti social behaviour are currently addressed. She said that currently the Council goes to the community and puts measures in place, but this would allow the community to come up with their own measures to solve issues themselves, with the support of the Council. The Service Manager, Environmental Health added that the confidence that is achieved in communities often leads them into accessing other groups of funding, that they would not otherwise think was available to them, such as Lottery or EU funding. She said that the budgets had always been small, even for larger communities and in terms of community cohesion this had been greater than the projects themselves. She said that examples of projects included lunch clubs for over 60's, nursery groups set up by young mothers, but this depended on the priorities in the community. In summary she said that the

process had a bigger overall impact.

Mr R C Nickerson spoke in support of the bid and in response to a query, the Service Manager – Environmental Health advised that the £20,000 budget, if successful, would be used for the community projects, and would not be put towards any costs of the Council or other partners. She also advised that it was hoped that training would be provided in Shetland to allow attendance from wider group of individuals in Shetland.

Mr A T J Cooper said that he agreed with Mr Cluness and that it should be possible to address problems quickly, however he felt that anti social behaviour emanated from the activities of the Council. He said that the Housing Service put vulnerable folk into houses and don't support them which leaves a horrendous problem for the individuals. He asked whether North Staney Hill had been suggested because it had the highest instances of anti social behaviour and said that rural areas should also be considered, where pockets of anti social behaviour exist.

Mrs L F Baisley said that she was concerned what would happen to the local service delivery groups and said that the situation was different in the North Isles as there were people already on community groups and was concerned that it would be those individuals that would be left to attend, yet another group. She said that it seemed over the top and she could not see that it would be rolled out to other areas.

Mrs C H J Miller moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report and said that she had seen youngsters who had been allocated funds and seen how that brought out an understanding and responsibility in them. In seconding, Mr A S Wishart said that he agreed that matters should be resolved quickly, but that was not always the case. He said that this was a trial, and North Staney Hill was an expanding area, which already had different types of housing.

Mr E L Fullerton said that she was not sure that this was the best use of officer's time. Mrs Fullerton moved as an amendment that the Committee do not support the use of Officer's time in this way and said that there were already Community Councils and Local Service Delivery Groups, in place. Mrs L F Baisley seconded.

The Service Manager – Environmental Health advised that North Staney Hill had been chosen because of the experience in the area and not just because of the instances of anti social behaviour. She said that there was already a community association who wanted to get involved in this. She said that Local Service Delivery Groups were also important in the process and she has spoken to Lerwick and Gulberwick about this. The Service Manager – Environmental Health advised that the intention was to use existing groups and it was about the communities doing things for themselves. She confirmed that the bid was in the second phase, as they had to submit an expression of interest. She said that Shetland was the only rural area that had expressed an interest and one benefit was that they had not asked for much money, however she was unsure whether they would be successful in their bid.

Following summing up, voting took place with a show of hands and the results were as follows:

Amendment (Mrs E L Fullerton)	7
Motion (Mrs C H J Miller)	10

The Committee considered a report by the Road Safety Engineer, attached as Appendix 2.

Mr L Angus referred to paragraph 6.6 and stated that it referred to the Anderson High School as being in a residential area. Mr Angus referred to the considerable congestion around Lerwick and the difficulty caused by daytime and overnight residential parking. He said that the Emergency Services had indicated that they had difficulty accessing some areas because of the parking. The Network and Design Manager said that he would take on board this point and report it to the Informal Meeting of Town Councillors.

Mr J H Henry advised that although a lot of work had been done at the Sound School the parents and teachers were still concerned about the speed in the area. He advised the Committee of a recent incident where the lollypop lady had almost been hit by a car heading up the road. He asked if there was anything that could be done to widen the crossing area where cars have to stop. The Network and Design Manager confirmed that he would discuss the incident with the lollypop lady to see what could be done.

In response to a query, the Network and Design Manager advised that the problem of four faulty units was being addressed. He advised that the company was checking a component of the unit, but they did not know if it was the part or the whole unit that was faulty. The Chairperson said that Scalloway were considering appointing a lollypop lady, but that took time to arrange and a timescale for the unit to be fixed was given as, by the end of the October holidays. The Network and Design Manager confirmed that the units were fully automated with no override facility. Mr R C Nickerson said that if there was no resolution to the problem, the whole unit should be replaced in each location.

The Network and Design Manager advised Mr A T J Cooper that, in Lunnasting, the District Valuer had indicated that letters would be issued by the end of September. He said therefore that they should arrive soon.

Mrs F B Grains referred to the lights to be replaced at Clach-na-strom and the Network and Design Manager advised that the work would be completed early next year, before the end of the financial year.

86/09 **A971 Haggersta to Cova – Report on Progress, August 2009**

The Committee noted a report by the Network and Design Manager, Roads, attached as Appendix 3.

The Network and Design Manager introduced the report and advised that there had been a poor response to the offers sent, for land acquisition under voluntary means. He advised that one landowner had agreed and the others were still being pursued for a response. He advised that if all agreements had not all been reached within the next 2-3 weeks, they would proceed to Compulsory Purchase Order.

The Network and Design Manager also advised that the rock face at Haggersta had been due to be repaired during construction of the road. However the rock face had deteriorated quicker, so the repairs would be carried out sooner rather than later.

In response to queries regarding the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) process, Members were advised that in the past the CPO process would be initiated in parallel with the pursuit of voluntary acquisition. The Network and Design Manager said however, emphasis had now been put by the Government onto acquiring voluntary agreement, therefore we were now obliged to seek voluntary agreement first. Members were advised that the CPO process took approximately 2 years.

Mrs L F Baisley gave an example of poor communication between the Council and a landowner, and in response to her query, the Network and Design Manager advised that consultation with the Landowners had been included in the process since the design stage. He said that it was now at the formal stage and the District Valuer was appointed to provide a valuation as an independent person.

After a further brief discussion, it was agreed that a report be brought to the Committee to formalise the current land acquisition process, including likely timescales and voluntary land acquisition.

87/09 **Progress Report – Implementation of Wheeled Bins and Commercial Waste Charges**

The Committee noted a report by the Cleansing Services Manager, attached as Appendix 4.

The Cleansing Services Manager introduced the report. The Chairperson said that it should be noted that householders had the choice to opt-in for the wheeled bin service and they were not being forced to use wheeled bins.

In response to comments made by Mr L Angus, the Cleansing Services Manager confirmed that the implementation of Wheeled Bins and Commercial Waste Charges had been approved on 18 November 2008, Minute Reference 80/08.

The Cleansing Services Manager explained how the dual lift system worked and advised that this lift system could be switched to manual loading. He explained that with the opt-in system a mixture of manual and automatic lifting would be used on any street. He said that wheeled bins would benefit the Cleansing staff, as there would be less manual lifting involved.

(Mr A J Cluness and Mrs C H J Miller, declared their interest as shop owners)

In response to a query from Mr A J Cluness, the Cleansing Services Manager referred to paragraph 3.7 and advised that the wheeled bins would replace the black boxes and would be used by a number of shops. He said that the size of the bins would be determined by a survey with shop owners. The Cleansing Services Manager advised that the bins had brakes on their wheels and could be secured by a fixing bracket if necessary. He also advised that the bins on the street would be cleaned by the Cleansing Service as was currently done for the black boxes, however as the bins were fully emptied, there was likely to be less build up of debris. The Cleansing Services Manager said that the cleaning of hired and domestic bins was the responsibility of the business or householder, but if necessary, a system may be put in place to assist the elderly or infirm. The Cleansing Services Manager advised that, as previously approved by the Committee, householders would still receive free black bags and businesses had the option of buying blue sacks. He said that this would

reduce any problems with the cleanliness of the bins.

Members raised concerns about the cost for businesses, but it was explained that the costings were looked at closely and approved last year.

88/09 **“Your Voice” Spring 2009 Survey Results – Cleansing Services**

The Committee noted a report by the Cleansing Services Manager, attached as Appendix 5.

Mrs E L Fullerton said that this was an excellent report and Officers should be congratulated for the good work they had done. The Committee unanimously agreed.

Mrs L F Baisley said that she would like to see the recycling of plastic bail wrap. In addition Mrs Baisley said that she had started collecting the recycling bags from the Recycling Centre and asked whether it would be possible to have a central recycling collection point in the North Isles. The Cleansing Services Manager advised that there were can and bottle banks in the North Isles, and that all other recycling could be deposited at the Lerwick Recycling Centre, which had longer opening hours to accommodate the public's needs.

In response to various queries, the Cleaning Services Manager agreed that there was an ongoing problem with citizens who act anti socially in the lanes of Lerwick, following a night out. He said that the lanes are cleaned on Saturday and Sunday mornings with a deeper clean being carried out 2-3 times a year. He advised that the service had taken delivery of a hot water pressure washer, which should make cleaning easier. Members were advised that the Cleansing Services Manager had also spent time discussing the problem with residents in the lanes.

The Cleansing Services Manager said that he would investigate the reasons for the dissatisfied responses to Question D1. He advised that Question D59 was intended to be an open ended question so that the public could say more if they wished, and he would look further into the comments made. The Cleansing Services Manager confirmed that a review of the provision of the Community Skips service had been undertaken this year and it had been put out to tender. As a result a better price for the service had been received. He advised that in some areas the number of skips had been increased, based on the number of population. He said however that an increase in other areas had not been possible. The Cleansing Services Manager said that the demand for the Community Skip service was more than could be supplied. In response to concerns that community skips were being used by commercial businesses, the Cleansing Services Manager advised that one firm had already been fined, and where evidence of other incidents could be found, the firms would be prosecuted. The Cleansing Services Manager said that he had been surprised at the response to Question D20 and said that his impression had been that fly tipping was under control. He said that this would be looked into in more detail. Mr L Angus said that fly tipping was still a substantial problem and that some salmon farming, and aquaculture materials were still in the marine environment.

89/09 **Minutes of the KIMO Co-ordination Group**

The Committee noted the minutes of the KIMO Co-ordination Group held on 3 July

2009, attached as Appendix 6.

90/09 **Minutes of the SIC Nuclear Policy Co-ordination Group**

The Committee noted the minutes of the SIC Nuclear Policy Co-ordination Group held on 3 July 2009, attached as Appendix 7.

91/09 **Minutes of the Road Safety Advisory Panel – 3 September 2009**

The Committee noted the minutes of the Road Safety Advisory Panel held on 3 September 2009, attached as Appendix 8.

The meeting concluded at 11.20 am.

I J Hawkins
Chairperson