

MINUTE

‘A&B’

Infrastructure Committee

Room 16, Islesburgh Community Centre, King Harald Street, Lerwick

Tuesday 9 March 2010 at 10.00am

Present:

L Angus	L F Baisley
J Budge	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	W H Manson
C H J Miller	R C Nickerson
F A Robertson	G Robinson
J G Simpson	C L Smith

In Attendance (Officers):

G Greenhill, Executive Director Infrastructure Services
M Craigie, Head of Transport
S Cooper, Head of Environment and Building Services
I Halcrow, Head of Roads
D Macnae, Network and Design Manager
M Dunne, Service Manager – Environmental Health
B Robb, Management Accountant
S Humphray, Temporary Assistant Accountant
A Taylor, Heritage Manager
I McDiarmid, Head of Planning
H Nelson, Development Plans Manager
L Gair, Committee Officer

Apologies

A J Cluness	A G L Duncan
J W G Wills	A S Wishart

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, as a Consultant for KIMO and Mr J H Henry, as a Trustee of the Shetland Amenity Trust, declared an interest in item 9 - Minutes of the KIMO Co-ordination Group – 4 September 2009.

Minutes of Meeting

The minutes of the Infrastructure Meeting held on 2 February 2010, having been circulated, was confirmed.

Attendance at External Meetings

Mrs I J Hawkins, Mrs L F Baisley
Mr R S Henderson, Mr A T J Cooper

Norwegian Consultant Meeting, Glasgow
28 February – 2 March 2010

and Mr A S Wishart

Mr F A Robertson

Planning Convener's Event, Edinburgh
22 February 2010

15/10 **Alternative to Payment of Fixed Penalty Notice**

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

Mrs L F Baisley said that there was a need for better education in this regard and moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report, seconded by Mr L Angus.

In response to concerns raised by Mr R C Nickerson, the Service Manager – Environmental Health referred to paragraph 3.6 and advised that if an individual were to successfully complete the programme but receives a second FPN then the programme will not be available to them a second time. Payment of the second FPN would be sought, in staged payments if necessary.

Mr Nickerson said that the recommendation appeared not to make that clear and therefore moved as an amendment that recommendation 7.1 be amended to read “that the Committee approve the education programme and if the programme is completed the fixed penalty fine will be waived”. Mr G Robinson seconded.

Mrs F B Grains said that she had little confidence in an education programme.

Mr L Angus said that dog fouling was a big problem in Lerwick and particularly at the Knab. He said that the Lerwick Community Council had discussed this issue at length, over the last 15 years. He said that steps had been taken in an attempt to improve the problem. The dog club had offered free dog training, and the Council had provided dog waste bins. It was now the unanimous view of the Lerwick Community Council that unless naming and shaming was used, there would be no improvement.

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

Amendment (R C Nickerson)	12
Motion (L F Baisley)	5

16/10 **Food Hygiene Information System**

The Committee considered a report by the Service Manager – Environmental Health, attached as Appendix 2.

Mr J G Simpson was of the view that the system was taking matters too far. Mrs E L Fullerton agreed and said that people make a decision on where to eat based on the menu or on recommendation from friends. She said that Shetland was too small a place for the scheme and moved that the Committee vote against it, seconded by Mr J G Simpson.

In response to a query the Service Manager – Environmental Health confirmed that the scheme was aimed at any premise that served food directly and did not relate to processors of food.

Mr R C Nickerson said that this was a voluntary scheme and it was important for customers to know that it is safe to eat there and to be able to consume with confidence. He said that the scheme would not cost any more as the inspections were already done. Mr Nickerson said that it was no different to providing a 4 star rating for a quality hotel. Mr Nickerson moved as an amendment that the Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report, seconded by Mrs C H J Miller

In response to Members concerns regarding community hall teas and outside events the Service Manager – Environmental Health said she was confident that there would be no issues for community halls, church teas and events. The Service Manager – Environmental Health advised that there were a small handful of establishments that would currently need to make improvements. The Service Manager – Environmental health added that this was aimed at reducing the number of inspections to those involved with real food handling.

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

Amendment (Mr R C Nickerson)	6
Motion (Mrs E L Fullerton)	10

17/10 **Consultation on New Scottish Government Policy on Higher Activity Radioactive Wastes**

The Committee considered a report by the Environmental Liaison Officer, attached as Appendix 3.

The Heritage Manager introduced the main terms of the report.

Mr J H Henry advised that he would be attending a SCORRS meeting on Friday in Edinburgh and he would contact the Heritage Manager for a briefing before attending the meeting.

The Chairperson referred to the last sentence in paragraph 4.6 and commented that Shetland would continue to be interested in these issues as long as there remains a facility at Dounreay. She also referred to paragraph 4.9 and said that she would not like to see recycled materials being used in “white goods”.

Mr R C Nickerson moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report adding that Members needed to be aware that this was the highest level of radiation and very dangerous materials and the Council’s policy would remain as its position on the matter. He added that the Council received the support of Tavish Scott, MSP and Mr A Carmichael. Mr F A Robertson seconded.

In response to a query from Mrs L F Baisley, it was not known for certain whether any low level radiation is created in Shetland, though it was believed a small amount is created at the hospital. Members noted that any North Sea materials are sent south for treatment.

Mr L Angus referred to the pollution incidents that affected fish around Sellafield and the contaminated beach near Dounreay. He said that a leak from Dounreay would affect the fish in the North Sea. Mr Angus highlighted concerns with regard to the military waste produced by the Vulcan facility. Mr Nickerson said that through pressure from this Council, the MOD confirmed that the Vulcan facility would be decommissioned at the same pace as Dounreay.

18/10 **Schemes to Construct New Pavements and Footpaths – Proposed Scheme of Assessment and Prioritisation**

The Committee considered a report by the Network and Design Manager, attached as Appendix 4.

The Network and Design Manager summarised the main terms of the report. The Executive Director – Infrastructure added that the Council was working in austere times with limited funds and the prioritisation scheme was trying to make the process more objective and more rigorous and it would show the community how the Council reaches its decisions.

Mr J G Simpson referred to Paragraph 9.2 of the report and said that the Council had not yet adopted the Gateway Process and was therefore not yet Council policy. The Network and Design Manager apologised for the misunderstanding and advised that it would be removed from the report.

During a lengthy discussion, Members reviewed the detail of the criteria proposed for the prioritisation scheme. In response to comments and concerns raised by Members in relation to the safety of walkers and pedestrians with pushchairs, particularly on single track roads the Network and Design Manager advised that the use of gravel verges was not always the best option and they would not be suitable for the larger schemes listed in the report. However providing gravel verges on single track roads would cost less than a complete pavement but there would be ongoing maintenance issues to consider. He added that many road edges were not wide enough and that land issues would need to be addressed. The use of pedestrian lay-bys and remote paths were also suggested by Members for use where appropriate.

Members commented on the use of street lighting in rural areas in relation to light pollution, running and maintenance costs. The Network and Design Manager advised that the cost of adding street lighting to a scheme would be between £5,000 and £6,000 per 100m.

Concern was expressed about the length of time the prioritisation scheme was taking to be agreed and that this matter was a safety issue that was not being taken forward. It was noted that the projects listed were now unlikely to begin before next year. It was also noted that although 20 schemes were listed, there were likely to be many more aspirational projects not yet listed.

Members requested that Officers take on board that the requirement of a footpath is not limited to main routes for accessing facilities. It was agreed that there was a need to look at alternative routes used for other leisure and health activities.

In response to queries from Members, the Network and Design Manager advised that the two schemes that were almost ready to proceed would continue to be promoted by the Roads Service for inclusion in next year's capital programme unless or until a prioritisation scheme is in place. He added that even if a project reaches the top of the list it may not be far enough on in the design process to proceed therefore another scheme would be brought forward. The Network and Design Manager explained that he had a list of 22 schemes that had been identified as a result of, what started as, one or two houses growing into larger clusters. He said that he welcomed not having more schemes added to the list but that would mean identifying areas for development so that work can be done before the planning process begins. The Executive Director –

Infrastructure added that in the future the Roads Service would be better embedded in the planning system.

The Network and Design Manager and the Head of Roads confirmed to Members that Community Councils were asked to identify, within their areas, where footpaths were required. However this request had been met with a low response.

Mrs C H J Miller, taking account of the comments made by Members, moved that the Committee approve the recommendation contained within the report with the following additions, highlighted in italics, to the six headings listed in paragraph 7.1:

- The numbers of households and facilities served, tabulated against the distances between them. The facilities would each be equated to a certain number of households, as a measure of likely pedestrian usage. *Accepted.*
- The number of relevant accidents *and or Community Council identification of particularly hazardous lengths of road*
- The 85th percentile speed of vehicles *measured at peak times*
- Traffic volume, tabulated against road width
- Verge width and condition. *Wherever practicable a hard verge will be provided on one side of single track roads.*
- Special conditions. *1. Prioritisation will be given to providing footways serving schools. 2. Street lights will not be provided unless special circumstances require it, to address safety issues.*

Mr F A Robertson seconded.

19/10 **The Measurement and Management of Skid Resistance on Council Roads – Review and Revision to the Shetland Islands Council’s SCRIM Policy**

The Committee considered and approved a report by the Road Maintenance Manager, attached as Appendix 5, on the motion of Mr F A Robertson, seconded by Mrs L F Baisley.

20/10 **A971 Haggersta to Cova – Report on Progress, February 2010**

The Committee noted a report by the Network and Design Manager, attached as Appendix 6.

(Mr J G Simpson left the meeting)

Members commented on the length of time the project had been considered and in response to queries regarding the move towards applying for compulsory purchase orders (CPO) the Network and Design Manager explained that the conveyancing stage was taking a long time to complete. The Network and Design Manager provided an update on the position with regard to the number of landowners who had provisionally agreed to the District Valuer’s valuations, and advised that there may now be a need to add a third landowner’s land to the CPO. He confirmed that the CPO should be advertised by the end of March.

21/10 **20 MPH Speed Limit at Schools – Progress Report, February 2010**

The Committee noted a report by the Road Safety Engineer, attached as Appendix 7.

Mr L Angus expressed his disappointment with regard to the delay in completing the speed limits at Bells Brae Primary School, although he understood why. He said that he hoped there would be no further delays as this concerned the safety of the children.

In referring to the Anderson High School, Mr Angus said that the Officers had worked hard to reconcile the problems. He also advised that one resident had submitted an objection after the deadline as he had been awaiting information from the Executive Director – Infrastructure and hoped that this submission would be taken into account. The Executive Director – Infrastructure reassured Mr Angus that he had met with the resident in question and had advised him that his objection would be considered.

Mr Angus also advised that there were concerns regarding the use of Breiwick Road as a quick route and requested that consideration be given to extending the use of traffic calming or road humps in Breiwick Road. Mr Smith agreed stating that these concerns had been raised at a recent Parent Council meeting.

The Chairperson advised that these matters would be addressed in a report to the Infrastructure Committee in May.

The Network and Design Manager explained that when objections are received, the Officers seek to have these objections withdrawn. He confirmed that the need for road humps would also be assessed together with parking in Knab Road.

In response to a query from Mr R C Nickerson, the Network and Design Manager advised that since writing the report Sandwick, Scalloway and Mossbank systems had been wired and the timing arrangements had to be discussed with the schools. He also advised that there had been delays in some areas, due to the weather conditions since the new year. The Network and Design Manager said however that there would be 7 or 8 of these affected schemes that would be finished very soon.

The Network and Design Manager confirmed to Mr A T J Cooper that following assessments, it had been possible to implement permanent 20mph speed limits at the smaller schools and this resulted in a lower construction cost allowing the overall project to be kept within budget. He advised that he had also received confirmation from Finance Services that any remaining funds will be transferred into the new financial year.

22/10 **Shetland Health Protection Plan**

The Committee noted a report by the Service Manager – Environmental Health, attached as Appendix 8.

The Chairperson asked how much involvement the Local Authority had in regulating the infection controls in hospitals. The Service Manager – Environmental Health advised that Environmental Officers of the Council have a role on the Infections Control Committee that has oversight of internal quality control and external inspections. She advised that Lerwick is rated highly compared to other Councils.

(Mr F A Robertson left the meeting)

Mrs E L Fullerton moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report, seconded by Mrs C H J Miller.

23/10 **Minutes of the KIMO Co-ordination Group – 4 September 2009**

The committee noted the minutes of the KIMO Co-ordination Group held on 4 September 2009, attached as Appendix 9.

24/10 **Minutes of the SIC Nuclear Policy Co-ordination Group – 4 September 2009**

The committee noted the minutes of the SIC Nuclear Policy Co-ordination Group held on 4 September 2009, attached as Appendix 10.

25/10 **Minutes of Road Safety Advisory Panel – 2 February 2010**

The Committee noted the minutes of the Road Safety Advisory Panel held on 2 February 2010, attached as Appendix 11.

Mr R C Nickerson noted the comment on page 1 – Levenwick Blind Summit and said that he looked forward to seeing the Levenwick improvements being listed in the capital programme.

26/10 **Minutes of ZetTrans Meetings - i) 25 January 2010 and ii) 22 February 2010**

The committee noted the minutes of the ZetTrans meetings held on 25 January 2010 and 22 February 2010, attached as Appendix 12i) and 12ii) respectively.

The meeting concluded at 11.40pm.

I J Hawkins
Chairperson