

Minutes of the Environmental Sub-Committee
Held at the Civic Hall Lee Street, Uppermill
On Monday 14th September 2009

There were present Cllr. Mrs. A. Parry – Chairman
 Cllr. Mr. K. Begley – Vice Chairman
 Cllrs: Mr. R Franklin
 Mrs. A. McInnes
 Graham Parker (GGRA)
 Graham Gibbons (Groundwork Oldham & Rochdale).
 Sue Jones (Oldham Council)

154. Apologies for Absence – Cllrs. Mr. P. Bagley, Mr. B. Cullen, Mr A. Hodgkiss, Mr. K. Hulme, & Mrs. V. Sedgwick (Oldham MBC), & Enid Firth (Area Committee)

155. Minutes of last meeting – Matters arising

a. Cleaning of Road signs – being dealt with by the District Partnership

b. Small park on Smithy Lane – delays due to legal issues.

156. Recycling – Sue Jones explained the current recycling options in Oldham, these include the Household Waste Recycling Centres run by G.M.W.D.A. at Arkwright Street and Beal Hey. The Bulky Bob service can collect up to 5 items from a property per month, currently 30% of the items collected are recycled, hoping to increase the % by dismantling items. The waiting time for the collection is approximately two weeks, householders are told the day that the item is collected, currently the vehicle operates in Saddleworth one day a week. The Council is looking at promoting the Bulky Bob service. It was agreed that it was not feasible to create a Household Waste Recycling Centre in Saddleworth. Additional “bring sites” could be created if suitable sites were identified.

Problems are being encountered with wheelie bins being left in the roadway after emptying. Information should be passed to the Customer Contact team, e-mail refuse@oldham.gov.uk.

157. Himalayan Balsam – There were ten events including School workshops, Graham is in the process of producing a report for the year, management plan and mapping information for 26 sites. The Waterways Trust may be able to involve their volunteers in the future. The communities have been involved with the mapping exercise, adding information to google maps. The mapping information will include the quantity and the area of land that has been cleared. Spraying was used at part of Friezland Riding Arena, this was based on advice from the Forestry Commission on the weed-killer that was used. Graham is going to check with the Oldham Countryside service about any clearing work that they undertook, he will also speak to neighbouring authorities. It is possible that some Land-fill tax funding may be available.

158. Toilets – The Clerk met with Peter Rafferty, Imogen Fuller and Lisa MacDonald to discuss how to progress a Community Toilet Scheme in Saddleworth and Lees. Peter is going to provide a briefing paper for this sub-committee and the District Partnership on setting up and running a scheme which could potentially become borough-wide.

159. **Water Power** – Nothing to report.
160. **Frames of reference** – It was agreed that Litter should be added to the terms of reference of the sub-committee
161. **Litter** – The Parks Maintenance team are responsible for clearing litter at Churchill Playing Fields.
162. **Public seats** – A number of public seats have been vandalised, some of these are being replaced by benches with no backs. The Clerk will investigate who is responsible for maintaining the variety of public seats in Saddleworth.
163. **Date of the next meeting** – Monday 16th November 2009.