

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SERVICES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE
HELD ON 9TH JULY 2008**

PRESENT

Mr. Wren presided over Mesdames Harrison, King and Reddick. Messrs. Mackin, Dear, Pollard.

1. APOLOGIES

Mr. Coward.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. SITE ALLOCATIONS

Members were informed about the new site put forward for consideration in respect of the D C's *Talk to Mid Beds* consultation, namely the garden of 52A Ivel Road. The D C also forward details of a further site in Pedley Lane for information purposes which although in Clifton could possibly impact on Shefford.

4. QUESTIONNAIRE – BEDS C C – CO2 EMISSIONS

Earlier this year the Government established a new indicator which requires Local Authorities to measure 'the per capita reduction in CO2 emissions in the local area'. The C C is aiming to achieve a 10% reduction in emissions by March 2011. Bearing this in mind the committee has been requested to complete a questionnaire to enable the C C to determine the additional level of action that's required.

5. HIGHWAY REPORTS

The June Highway Reports have been received from Beds Highways. All items on the reports were noted accordingly.

6. PLAY AREA REPORTS

The June play area reports have been received from the contractor. All items on the report were noted accordingly.

7. FARMERS MARKET

Mr. Pollard gave the members a brief update on the above. So far 8 stalls have been confirmed although some stallholders will also have stalls at the Bedford River Festival. Posters have been placed in and around the town including along the by-pass. The stalls will be situated on both sides of the High Street and fruit, vegetables etc. will be on sale.

The parking authority is to be contacted to see if the existing parking regulations can be relaxed for stallholders that need to operate from their vehicle for the duration of the market.

8. POST OFFICE CLOSURES

Information has been received regarding proposed Post Office closures in Bedfordshire including Mid Beds. Although the Shefford Post Office was not included, the committee agreed to contact the National Consultation Team of Post Office Ltd to register their objection to the probable closure of both the Old Warden and Southill Post Offices. Residents of both villages will have to travel quite some distance to make use of the facilities and the proposed replacement mobile service will not be a suitable alternative.

9. INFORMATION ON UNITARY AUTHORITY – BEDS C C

The committee has received an update from the Leader of the County Council in respect of the forthcoming unitary. The information contained therein was noted accordingly.

10. MBDC'S RESPONSE RE PROPOSED ECO-TOWN

The committee has received a copy of the D C's response to the CLG Consultation Paper on *'Eco-towns : Living a Greener Future'*
In short, at this stage the D C can only express a number of fundamental concerns and wishes to make absolutely clear that it is not in a position to support the Government's Eco-towns concept or the possible choice of Marston Vale as a potential Eco-town location until more details are known.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The D C has granted Planning Permission in respect of a 'Change of Use' application for a unit on the Industrial Estate which the Council would like to use for various youth projects.

Beds Highways are to be contacted about the amount of vegetation growing in the gullies on the estate roads.

A letter of complaint is to be written to the grasscutting contractor informing him that the quality of his work is very poor and to further warn him that payment will be suspended unless his work improves immediately. The Mayor has taken numerous photographs of various areas in the town indicating the poor quality of work particularly along the footpaths adjacent to the river. These will be made available to the contractor if required. The clerk was requested to open a file of all the complaints about grasscutting received so far.

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.