

Licensing and Regulatory Committee



Minutes of a meeting of the **Licensing and Regulatory Committee** held on **Tuesday 3 July 2018** at **5.00 pm** in **Conference Chamber West, West Suffolk House**, Western Way, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3YU

Present: **Councillors**

Chairman Susan Glossop
Vice Chairman Clive Springett

Sarah Broughton
John Burns
Mike Chester
Max Clarke

Wayne Hailstone
Margaret Marks
Richard Rout
Peter Thompson

Substitutes attending:

Ian Houlder

Elaine McManus

By Invitation:

Jim Thorndyke, Ward Member for Stanton

91. **Election of Chairman 2018-2019**

This being the first meeting of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee since the Council's Annual General Meeting on 17 May 2018, the Business Partner (Litigation and Licensing) opened the meeting and asked for nominations for Chairman of the Committee for 2018-2019.

Accordingly, Councillor John Burns nominated Councillor Margaret Marks as Chairman, and this was duly seconded by Councillor Max Clarke.

The Business Partner (Litigation and Licensing) asked whether there were any further nominations.

Councillor Mike Chester then nominated Councillor Susan Glossop as Chairman, and this was duly seconded by Councillor Wayne Hailstone.

The Committee then took the vote. With the vote being 4 for Councillor Margaret Marks, and 8 for Councillor Susan Glossop, it was

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Susan Glossop be elected Chairman for 2018-2019.

Councillor Susan Glossop then took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting and requested nominations for the election of Vice-Chairman.

92. **Election of Vice-Chairman 2018-2019**

Councillor Susan Glossop nominated Councillor Clive Springett as Vice-Chairman and this was duly seconded by Councillor Sarah Broughton, and with the vote being 9 for and 3 abstentions, it was

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Clive Springett be elected Vice-Chairman for 2018-2019.

93. **Substitutes**

The following substitutions were declared:

Councillor Ian Houlder for Councillor Mary Evans.
Councillor Elaine McManus for Councillor Frank Warby.

94. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mary Evans, Beccy Hopfensperger and Frank Warby.

95. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 April 2018 were accepted by the Committee as an accurate record and were signed by the Chairman.

96. **Public Participation**

There were no questions/statements from members of the public.

97. **West Suffolk Local Air Quality - Progress Report (2017-2018)**

[Councillor Sarah Broughton declared a non-pecuniary interest – husband owns land, North-East of Bury St Edmunds, and remained in the meeting during the discussion.]

Councillor Margaret Marks declared a non-pecuniary interest - owns property on Withersfield Road, Haverhill, and remained in the meeting during the discussion].

The Committee received Report No: LIC/SE/18/004, which reported on work undertaken during 2017 to meet Local Air Quality Regulations across the Borough, including specific work in relation to the Great Barton Air Quality Management Area. Attached at Appendix 1 to the report was the West Suffolk 2018 Air Quality Annual Status Report, which followed the required format by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

For the majority of the Borough, it was reported that air quality remained good, being below national limits, and continued to show a long-term trend of slight year-on-year improvement. However, there was one monitored location in the Borough which was above the national annual mean objective for nitrogen dioxide in 2017. This being located in the newly formed Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) of Sicklesmere Road, Bury St Edmunds.

Although levels of measured pollutants in all areas of St Edmundsbury remained in compliance with the national objectives, officers were aware that there were negative health impacts related to lower concentrations of certain pollutants, especially particulates. Therefore, work would continue to monitor and improve air quality further.

Attached at Appendix 2 to the report was the Draft Great Barton Air Quality Management Area Action Plan, which had been developed with the support of a steering group that had met on a number of occasions. A number of measures had been considered, some of which were not being pursued presently due to currently being impractical or not having a reasonable funding source. However, a number of measures were being investigated, as detailed in the Action Plan. These included moving the pedestrian crossing, which was currently located immediately adjacent to the AQMA, and improvements to the Thurston Road (Bunbury Arms) Junction of the A143. Both of which were being investigated in conjunction with the Suffolk County Highways officer.

The report also included information on the Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) weight restriction on the A1088 between Ixworth and Elmswell, which was primarily within Mid Suffolk administrative area. As a result of this restriction some HGV traffic were not able to use the A1088 when trying to reach the A14, consequently forcing HGVs to use a longer route, often through Great Barton. Officers were making a request to Suffolk County Council Highways to review the HGV restrictions along the A1088, asking for confirmation of the environmental impacts that this restriction supports and how they were judged to outweigh the air quality concerns in Great Barton.

The Chairman then invited Councillor Jim Thorndyke, Ward Member for Stanton to address the Committee in respect of this item. He thanked the Committee for allowing him to speak. He then set out his concerns regarding information contained within paragraphs 3.5 and 3.6 of the covering report relating to the HGV weight restrictions. He explained that several years ago, Suffolk County Council (SCC) had introduced the weight limit restriction along the A1088. Furthermore, the weight restriction did not affect lorries in Stanton as they were able to apply for permits, which were issued/controlled by SCC.

In response to the information provided by Councillor Thorndyke, members expressed disappointment that SCC were unable to provide any reason for the weight limit on the A1088. Officers agreed to look at this further with Councillor Thorndyke outside of the Committee meeting, and would also clarify with SCC how many permits had been issued. Councillor Richard Rout, a member of the Committee, who was also a SCC Cabinet Member for Environment, Public Protection informed members that he would pass

comments onto SCC and Councillor Mary Evans, Deputy Leader of SCC regarding this issue.

The Committee considered the report in detail and asked a number of questions to which responses were provided. In particular discussions were held on the Haverhill relief road and Withersfield Road, Haverhill; continuous monitoring points; including electric charging points at pre-planning application stage; and sought reassurance that Great Barton residents would be consulted on the implementation of the action within the AQMA Action Plan.

Councillor Richard Rout questioned when the Steering Group would be formed to progress the Action Plan for the Sicklesmere Road AQMA, as he wished to be involved. In response officers advised that they would be over the next couple of months identifying key stakeholders to sit on the Steering Group.

In response to a particular question raised regarding electric vehicle charging points, members were informed that there were currently four locations across West Suffolk, with each point having two sockets. There were also plans in place for additional charging points to be introduced.

In response to a question raised relating to Sicklesmere Road and whether a new route would go through the new estate, and what the future impact might be, members were informed that the route of the relief road had been laid out in the planning application.

In response to a question raised, officers agreed to incorporate vehicle numbers in next year's Air Quality Annual Status Report.

In response to a question raised on what action could be taken to mitigate air pollution along Withersfield Road, Haverhill, officers agreed to work with Haverhill Ward Members on ways improvements could be made to air quality.

The Committee also discussed the recent article published in the East Anglian Daily Times on 30 June 2018, stating "West Suffolk carbon emissions 55% higher than the national average", to which officers provided a comprehensive response. The Service Manager (Environmental Health) also took the opportunity to update the Committee on the councils West Suffolk Growth Investment Strategy: Energy Framework, which was approved by the Joint Executive (Cabinet) Committee on 25 June 2018.

There being no decision required, the Committee **noted** the work undertaken in order to improve local air quality in West Suffolk and **supported** the Great Barton Air Quality Management Action Plan.

98. West Suffolk Food Safety Services Plan 2018-2019

The Committee received Report No: LIC/SE/18/005, which asked members to consider and support the delivery of a West Suffolk Food Safety Service Plan for West Suffolk.

The report presented a West Suffolk Food Safety Service Plan (Appendix A), covering both the regulatory and support work undertaken by the

Environmental Health Service to protect public health in West Suffolk in respect of the food chain, whether working in food business or a food consumer. As the Plan was an operational document, it would undergo regular review and change in future years. Officers would continue to maintain and enhance dialogue with stakeholders which would help inform any revisions to the Plan, as well as helping to improve the services that the council delivered. The Plan included elements of review over the last year as well as setting out the work for the coming year. It also included information on the introduction of a fast-track re-rating inspection under the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme. The Team Leader (Commercial Environmental Health) then brought to the Committees attention a number of key outcomes set out in Appendix A.

Members considered the Service Plan and asked questions to which the Team Leader (Commercial Environmental Health) provided responses. In particular discussions were held on the new "take-out eat-well" scheme being launched in September 2018; the use of social media and the effects of bad publicity on food premises; and from August 2018 the introduction of charging for re-inspections for the new fast-track re-rating scheme.

Discussions were also held on the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (0-5) score, which was a national scheme rating, as well as the window sticker, which was currently only voluntary for businesses to display. However, members were informed that the FSA was looking at making it mandatory to display the sticker to drive up food standards.

In response to a question raised, officers agreed to include in next years' service plan the percentage of outcomes following complaints being received by the service.

In response to a question raised regarding staffing levels and the number of low level food interventions being carried forward into 2018-2019, members were informed that staff shortages had now been addressed to deal with the backlog. Work to clear the outstanding lower-risk inspections was being carried out in close liaison with the Food Standards Agency Regulatory Delivery Assurance Team, and it was hoped this would be cleared by the end of December 2018.

Finally, a member of the committee asked whether it would be possible for members to shadow officers on visits to food premises to help them gain a better understand of the work involved, which the Team Leader (Commercial Environmental Health) was happy to arrange with members.

There being no decisions required, the Committee **noted** the West Suffolk Food Safety Service Plan 2018-2019, attached as Appendix A to Report No: LIC/SE/18/005.

The Meeting concluded at 6.15 pm

Signed by:

Chairman