

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON
THURSDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2008 AT THE BOURGES/VIERSEN ROOM - TOWN HALL**

Present: Councillors P Kreling (Chairman), D Morley (Vice-Chairman), C Day, R Dobbs, J A Fox, N North and P Thacker

Officers Present: Mike Heath – Commercial Services Director
Paul Phillipson – Executive Director – Operations
David Denson – Head of Operations, Commercial Services
Amy Brown – Solicitor
Paulina Ford – Research Scrutiny Officer
Martin Whelan – Partnership and Parish Support Officer

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Councillors Croft, Sandford and Thacker.

2. Declarations of Interest and Whipping Declarations

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 October 2008

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd October 2008 were approved as a correct record.

4. Extension of the Green Flag Award to additional parks/open spaces in Peterborough

Members of the Panel received the report, which requested sought suggestions for possible extensions for the scheme. The following areas were suggested;

- Bishop Roads Garden – Members noted that the gardens were well managed, but lacked community involvement in the management of the area.
- Cuckoos Hollow – Cllr Thacker and Cllr Fox proposed the site as good potential site. Members agreed that it was a good suggestion.
- Tear Drop Lake Area (Hampton) - Cllr North suggested that the lake area was a possibility but lacked community involvement in the management of the area.

Members agreed that it was important that if sites were adopted for the purposes of the award, it was important that the community was heavily involved on an organised basis.

5. What is the value of a tree?

Members of the Panel received the report, which outlined possible pricing options for the removal of trees.

Members welcomed the proposal and the following comments;

- It was agreed that the planning permission system should be strengthened to ensure the risk of having to remove trees was minimised.
- The importance of working with developers to minimise medium/long term problems with the developments.
- General agreement that the CAVOT system was an appropriate mechanism for calculating the value of trees.

6. Executive Decisions

The Panel noted the executive decisions made since the previous meeting of the Panel.

Clarification was sought on a number of aspects of the Parking Review, particularly disabled parking and the availability of visitor permits. Paul Phillipson agreed to circulate an explanation of the changes to the panel in relation to visitor parking.

7. Forward Plan

The Panel considered the latest version of the Forward Plan.

8. Feedback and Update Report

The report was noted.

9. Panel Agenda Plan

The panel noted the plan. Clarification was sought on when it was expected that the bus fares item would return to the panel. It was noted that it was hoped to bring it back during early 2009.

The meeting began at 7.00 pm and ended at 7.37 pm

CHAIRMAN