

## CABINET MEETING 6<sup>th</sup> February 2008

### REGISTERED SPEAKERS

There were 13 notices of intention to make a statement at the meeting. Where the intention is to speak about an item on the Agenda, the speaker will be offered the option to speak near the beginning of the meeting or just before the Agenda item.

- Steve Bruce-Jones, Trustee, The Genesis Trust  
Re: Premises for The Genesis Trust
- Cllr Dr Eleanor Jackson  
Re: Consultation Process behind "Future of B&NES"
- Scott Morrison, Bath Co-ordinator, Friends of the Earth  
Re: Kitchen Food Waste
- Cllr Adrian Inker  
Re: Draft Corporate Plan (Agenda Item 12)
- Cllr Rob Appleyard  
Re: Draft Corporate Plan (Agenda Item 12)
- Cllr John Bull  
Re: Draft Corporate Plan (Agenda Item 12)
- Cllr Dr Eleanor Jackson  
Re: Draft Corporate Plan (Agenda Item 12)
- Cllr David Speirs  
Re: Draft Corporate Plan (Agenda Item 12)
- Cllr Adrian Inker  
Re: Financial Plan, Budget and Council Tax (Agenda Item 13)
- Cllr Rob Appleyard  
Re: Financial Plan, Budget and Council Tax (Agenda Item 13)
- Cllr John Bull  
Re: Financial Plan, Budget and Council Tax (Agenda Item 13)
- Cllr Dr Eleanor Jackson  
Re: Financial Plan, Budget and Council Tax (Agenda Item 13)
- Cllr David Speirs  
Re: Financial Plan, Budget and Council Tax (Agenda Item 13)

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - COUNCILLORS

**01 Question from:** Councillor Nicholas Coombes

I welcome news that the council plans to collect kitchen waste from households in BathNES, in addition to the paper, cardboard, plastics, tins, glass, textiles, shoes, batteries, spectacles, mobile phones, printer ink and garden waste. However, those living in Bath University Halls of Residence only have paper, tins and glass recycled, compared to the extensive service we offer to other residents. What has the council done to improve the number of items which can be recycled in University Halls?

**Answer from:** Councillor Charles Gerrish

*After many trials and discussions, we now provide the University Halls of residence with the most appropriate recycling service which we call the "Mini Recycling Centre" (MRC) system. These provide wheeled recycling bins suitable for people living in accommodation which is not suited to the green box service. We cannot offer a full range of materials for recycling collection because the wheeled bin is collected by the vehicle and manual sorting is not appropriate. Plastic bottles can be recycled at all MRC's including those at Bath University, and we are exploring a wider range of materials for collection, by working closely with the University to achieve this. For instance, we have recently installed cardboard recycling facilities for the students but this is not operating as successfully as we would like at the moment as users are contaminating the bins. We continue to actively encourage students to be more responsible with their recycling behaviour.*

**02 Question from:** Councillor Nicholas Coombes

Please review the answer given to Armand Edwards by Cllr Jenkins at Council Executive 10-01-07. Has a 'workable solution' been found after the review of the cycle routes circling Sydney Gardens? Can new covered cycle stands be installed at the bottom on Bathwick Hill?

**Answer from:** Councillor Charles Gerrish

*The answer given to the question to Cabinet on 10 Jan 07 was:*

"The possibility of a cycle lane up Bathwick Hill and North Road will be investigated. However, it will be dependent on how much road width is available. A cycle lane on Ralph Allen Drive is not currently agreed. This also needs more investigation. It would not be possible to consider cycle lockers at the bottom of Bathwick Hill. However, a more prominent position, and therefore safer location, can be considered for some additional 'Sheffield' type

cycle parking stands.

The cycle route from Sydney Place end of Great Pulteney Street will be reviewed again but finding a workable solution is proving to be very difficult."

*Much of North Road is too narrow to allow for a climbing lane, although Bathwick Hill is mostly wide enough for such a lane. This will be added to the Task Register of schemes to be prioritised for future funding.*

*Sydney Gardens cycle route – this item will be discussed at the next regular meeting of representatives of Bath cycling groups and Officers, which is currently considering how to incorporate cycle routes through the city centre.*

*Cycle parking - there is a budget for cycle parking facilities, which allows for the provision of cycle stands at sites where there is a proven need and where they do not obstruct the footway. It is not current policy to provide covered cycle parking in public areas. A "cycle cage" would be expensive and require all users to be supplied with a key, which is not practical nor truly secure..*

03

**Question from:** Councillor Tim Ball

With regard to street cleansing: What is the Cabinet member doing to improve the cleansing standards in the City of Bath?

**Answer from:** Councillor Charles Gerrish

*The standard of street cleansing across Bath & North East Somerset, including the city of Bath, have improved over the last two years (as shown by our performance against the Best Value Performance Indicator) and this has prompted an increase in resident satisfaction with the service (as evidenced by the results of the recent Voicebox survey).*

*We recognise that the standards achieved can be further improved and the recent re-organisation of services along 'Neighbourhood' lines will help facilitate this, allowing a focus on local priorities including those identified through PACT (Partnership and Communities Together) meetings and by Ward Councillors.*

*Areas for improvement are: litter generated by "fast food" outlets, the additional litter caused by the introduction of smoking legislation and fly tipping. The first two areas are being monitored and we look first to tackle any problems through working in partnership with relevant businesses. Where this fails to effect an adequate improvement, enforcement actions (including the placing of 'Street Litter Control Notices' against named businesses) are being used. We have also increased monitoring of flytipping 'hotspots' (including the use of CCTV) - all incidents are now investigated and prosecutions will be taken where sufficient evidence is available.*

*A review of the level of resources deployed in Cleansing Enforcement is underway. There is scope also to consider the introduction of Night Time Cleansing in city centre hotspots (identified in 'Night Vision' surveys) and we plan to adjust the budget available for new and replacement litter bins through more effective use of existing resources.*

*The Cleansing, Enforcement and Environmental Protection teams will in future*

*operate as a single unit and this is intended to create capacity to achieve further improvements and allow us to better target resources to address any problems. Our successful Environment Action Days and Deep Clean/Keep Clean (LAA funded) initiatives are further evidence of how we are cleaning up the area by involving communities and using combined resources from various agencies, focusing on areas of most need. We shall also work closely with the new City Centre Management Company to identify where further improvements might be made and how additional resources, where justified, might be funded in the future. Should Members have any particular concerns regarding street cleansing they are invited to contact the Area Manager responsible.*

**Supplementary Question:**

Does the Cabinet member know the boundaries of the City of Bath; is he aware of the sackfuls of rubbish all along the river bank in Twerton? And can he say what he will do to clean up my ward?

**Answer from: Councillor Gerrish**

*Yes, I am fully aware of the boundaries of the city. I will respond to the member's supplementary question within 7 days.*

**Answer from: Councillor Gerrish**

*I have already replied regarding the first part of the question. I am aware of the litter problem along the riverside and I have sanctioned, as part of our "Deep Clean / Keep Clean" programme, a clean up operation which is supported by a number of Members. This will involve litter removal, graffiti treatment and planting and the removal of low branches. We would encourage more volunteers to become involved in this initiative and the area treated can be extended to cover the area mentioned in the question if this is helpful. I will ask officers to ensure that Cllr Ball is invited to the meeting on 25th February to plan this work. Joint initiatives to clean up Redland Park and the woodland area have recently been undertaken and a community "clean up" day is scheduled to take place on Saturday 23rd February (where staff and a lorry are being provided to assist the community in the Redland Park area). Litter bins have recently been installed in the area and more are planned. Our inspections indicate that there is no overall issue with the standard of cleanliness in Twerton as a whole although there are doubtless areas where there are concerns. The Area Manager responsible for cleansing has met both Ward Councillors and the move towards neighbourhood based management offers a real opportunity for continued dialogue so that any issues of local concern can be addressed appropriately. The cleansing service is committed to addressing issues of local concerns and I will ask the Cleansing Enforcement team to contact Cllr Ball in order to establish any outstanding issues so that actions can be agreed.*

**04**    **Question from:**    Councillor Cherry Beath

Can the Cabinet Member confirm that there is a proposal to market commercially a property owned by the Council at 1-3 James St West? What were the reasons behind the decision to reject the development proposal presented by The Genesis Trust and Somer Housing Group (to redevelop the site as a base for The Genesis Trust, including workshop/affordable housing)? Would he agree that this is the kind of project the Council should endorse and promote, and that the work of the Genesis Trust in particular makes a major contribution towards the Council's priorities?

**Answer from:**    Councillor Malcolm Hanney

*In view of the considerable interest which there is likely to be in this property, the only way to ensure that the Council obtains best value is to market it openly, and I anticipate it being on the market by April. Proposals received following marketing will be evaluated on a combination of financial offer and the proposed use. The Genesis Trust/Somer will be given every opportunity to put forward a proposal, which will be considered alongside the others. The provision of affordable housing and workshops are, of course, very important to the Council, and any organisation which helps provide such uses makes an important contribution.*

**Supplementary Question:**

I am pleased that the building is not just being evaluated on financial grounds. Would the Cabinet member agree to meet with me and the Genesis Trust to discuss this?

**Answer from: Councillor Malcolm Hanney**

*I will agree to meet with any parties so long as the meeting does not prejudice the interests of other possible interested parties. We are obliged to ensure the maximum financial return from the sale of the property, otherwise the Council could be construed as subsidising the third party.*

**05**    **Question from:**    Councillor Gerry Curran

(a) Will the same day collection scheme, which the Cabinet re-announced on 28th January, apply in the same way to the centre of Bath where clutter on pavements could cause obstruction if residents put out all their waste streams on the same day, as to the rest of Bath and North East Somerset? How will the Cabinet member address this potential problem?

(b) The Cabinet also re-announced a food waste collection scheme to start in 2009. In order to encourage residents to save their food waste for collection, the service needs to be clean, convenient and hygienic. Will residents be provided with equipment such as a kitchen caddy to help them save their waste for the food waste collection? Will the Cabinet member consider whether biodegradable

liners for food bins could be supplied?

(c) What plans are in place for the processing of the food waste collection? Will the waste have to be transported far for composting? Could the resulting compost be made available to Bath and North East Somerset residents free or at least very cheaply?

(d) What pilots are being planned for the food waste collection and same day collection of waste and recycling schemes? Will pilots for both schemes be run simultaneously?

**Answer from:**

Councillor Charles Gerrish

*a) Clutter on city pavements is one of the reasons why we believe a pilot test is needed. Flexibility may be required in specific areas where potential problems have been identified and this issue and others will be considered as part of the pilot project later in 2008.*

*b) We agree a food waste collection service needs to be clean, convenient and hygienic and yes, a kitchen caddy will be provided. Biodegradable liners will also be available but they may have to be charged for. Again this will be reviewed during the pilot test.*

*c) We will shortly be tendering for treatment capacity and haulage distance will be a key factor in determining the most viable solution. The resulting compost is generally not suitable for sale to residents; instead its quality is such that it tends to be used for agricultural land restoration etc. This will be assessed once treatment outlets have been identified. Customers can of course purchase compost at present from B&NES' green waste and cardboard collection which meets quality standards.*

*d) Pilots schemes were carried out in 2002/03 to inform the planning of the scheme, and, although we have not yet decided on the exact nature of the 2008 pilot scheme, we anticipate that kitchen waste will be collected on the same vehicle as the green box recyclables.*

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS - PUBLIC

There were none