

REPORT FROM CLLR CHRISTINE FORD
NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL
JULY 2009

Thursday 25 July

Environment Review Panel, I chaired a meeting of this panel the theme of which was mostly to do with coastal matters, flood risk and coastal erosion as we discussed the North Solent Management Plan - Ringwood Bay not just yet thank goodness, but plenty to think about if one lives in eg Barton on Sea, Milford etc.

On the recycling front, the word is that Project Integra is at last actively discussing expanding the types of dry recyclable materials that we would be able to put in our clear sacks; for example more types of plastic.

NFDC officers are preparing reports for the panel's September meeting in connection with the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, with a view to clarifying just what is practicable to enforce. It has emerged that there are various areas which enforcement in other authorities has run into legal difficulties, bad press reports and the Human Rights legislation. This impinges on some aspects of the control of shopping trolleys!! A meeting is being set up regarding this with interested parties in Ringwood.

There is also a review taking place into the problem of litter along the A31 particularly from Cadnam to the Dorset border, and how to deal with it, ie which agencies and at what cost.

That afternoon saw the wind up meeting of the **Green Audit Board**, the findings for implementation will be handed over to the Environment Review Panel, but still to be overseen by Mr Keith Smith. This task will be to ensure that the plans which emerged from this year long analytical process are carried out by the Council to reduce carbon footprints etc in all operations, council homes, leisure centres, transport etc, and to take into consideration every possible environmental care in all the council's activities.

Friday 3 July

Visit to Eco Composting at Hurn to view the process of the collection of and the composting of food waste. A 'fragrant' but nevertheless impressive operation which might eventually (when funding once again allows) become another kerbside collection item.

Monday 6 July

Attended the **Cabinet meeting**. My colleague Cllr Treleaven will no doubt have a word or two to report from this meeting

Thursday 16 July

Conservative Group meeting. A thorough discussion took place regarding councillors wearing two or three different council 'hats'. Some thought that this appeared to be a form of 'bed blocking', with opportunities being denied to others; some thought that it was not possible for a person to be able to give all their efforts over a wide range of jobs; others were content to leave it to the individual councillors to decide whether they could cope with the work load. The latter opinion was accepted by the majority.

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Other activities included

Attended Full Council on 20th July

Present at the Environment Portfolio holder's briefing on Friday 24th July
also on same day paid a site visit to Keyhaven public conveniences, the subject of the next
refurbishment programme.

Attended the Public convenience review meeting on Tuesday 28th July

August is traditionally a quiet month for Council, but lets see what emerges during the next few
weeks!

Councillor Christine Ford
NFDC