

Horwich Town Council

The minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Improvements Advisory Group of Horwich Town Council held in the Town Council Office, Horwich Community Centre, Beaumont Road, Horwich on Wednesday 12 February 2020 commencing at 6.20 pm

PRESENT: Councillor C. Rotheram (in the Chair), D. Grant
C. Morris, Deputy Town Clerk

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

EIAG 24: Apologies received from Councillors Brady, Bostocksmith and Chadwick.

TO RECEIVE AND RECOMMEND ADOPTION OF THE HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY:

EIAG 25: Resolved to recommend adoption of the Horwich Town Council Environmental Policy.

TO CONSIDER AND RECOMMEND HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL SIGNING UP TO SUPPORT THE LOCAL ELECTRICITY BILL:

EIAG 26: Resolved to recommend Horwich Town Council signing up to support the Local Electricity Bill.

TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE DEPUTY TOWN CLERK ON HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL'S A 'BAG FOR LIFE' INITIATIVE AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSALS:

EIAG 27: The aim of the initiative is to promote Horwich Town Council as a prime mover by funding a reusable shopping bag which would be considered eco-friendly to manufacture. This could be the start of a wider initiative to help create Horwich as an environmentally friendly town. In the next financial year, the environmental budget has been increased which will allow the Town Council to promote and try to initiate decreasing the use of single use plastics.

A material to consider for a bag for life is jute which is 100% bio-degradable and recyclable thus making it environmentally friendly. Jute is very durable and is a great alternative to plastic and paper bags. The design of jute bags are natural looking so it was suggested to keep the design simple but recognisable to Horwich Town Council.

Members decided to propose 3 bag designs which also includes an interior message in the bag regarding sustainability to present to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for approval.

An example of costings for a jute tote shopper bag from a local firm would be: 500 units @ £2.46 = £1,230.00 plus artwork, carriage and VAT

Resolved to recommend Horwich Town Council's 'bag for life' initiative.

TO CONSIDER A DATE TO INVITE THE LOCAL BUSINESSES TO THE HORWICH COMMUNITY CENTRE TO DISCUSS USING ALTERNATIVE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY PACKAGING:

EIAG 28: Members decided the best method to contact local businesses would be to write them a letter to include the Town Councils vision on creating a single

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use plastic ban for the town and to invite local takeaways to attend on open day at the Centre for more information on the alternative packaging solutions. As an incentive for the takeaways to be more environmentally friendly with packaging, the Council could issue them with a credential for being eco-friendly. The proposed date and time set for the open day is 15th April from 12.30 to 2.30pm.

Resolved to set the proposed date for the local businesses to attend Horwich Community Centre to discuss alternative environmentally friendly packaging.

TO RECOMMEND HORWICH TOWN COUNCIL TAKES PART IN 'THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN' BETWEEN 20TH MARCH TO 13TH APRIL:

EIAG 29: A recommendation was made that all members of Horwich Town Council were to be involved in the spring clean. A date of the 29th March was decided and it was expected that Councillors individually organised a litter pick in their own wards to help tackle the ongoing litter problem.

TO DISCUSS AND CONSIDER A HORWICH TOWN CENTRE LOYALTY CARD SCHEME AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE MARKETING AND PROMOTIONS SUB-COMMITTEE ON THIS MATTER:

EIAG 30: The loyalty card scheme would focus directly on independent businesses in the Horwich centre vicinity to help increase tourism and encourage local residents to shop locally. If the businesses are interested, then they can sign up to the scheme and put forward a deal or discount for all loyalty card holders. The Town Council would be responsible in the design of the card but it would then be down to shops being on board with incentives for residents to shop in the Centre. Councillor Rotheram has decided to directly contact the local businesses to gauge interest and to also propose the idea at the meeting of the town regeneration meetings.

Resolved to recommend that the Horwich Town Centre loyalty card scheme to be considered by the Marketing and Promotions sub-committee.

TO AGREE A DATE FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

EIAG 31: Agreed to arrange the next meeting of the Environmental Improvements Advisory Committee on 1st April 2020

The meeting closed at 7.20 pm.

Chairperson.......... Date.....9 MARCH 2020.....