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MINUTES of the Meeting of the Environmental Services Committee held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Carrickfergus, on **MONDAY**, the **NINETEENTH** day of **JULY** 2010, at the hour of **7.50** o'clock pm pursuant to the Town Clerk's summons calling the Meeting, the following Members were present:

Councillor D Ferguson, Chairman Presiding

Aldermen: W Ashe M M Beattie D W Hilditch
J McClurg

Councillors: R Beggs C J Brown T R L Clements
I E Day S C Dickson E Ferguson
W S Hamilton L McClurg L Marsden

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Councillors Cosgrove, McKinney and Neeson.

The following Officials were in attendance:-

Mr A Barkley Director of Environmental Services
Mrs J Shearer Committee Clerk

REPORT FROM DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Report from Director of Environmental Services for the month of June 2010, read and considered.

ARISING OUT OF THE REPORT

ES.45/10
(ES.38/10)

Planning Consultation Returns

Members had been circulated with a breakdown of planning consultations processed for period 16 June 10 to 9 July 10, for information purposes.

Noted.

E.46/10
(ES.19/10)

Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Bill – Consultation

Members had been circulated with copy correspondence received from NI Assembly seeking Council's views on the above proposed Bill no later than 13 August 2010.

Information on the Bill could be viewed at

http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/legislation/primary/2009/nia31_09.htm

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or a hardcopy had been placed in Committee Room 2 for Members' perusal.

Members were requested to forward any comments to the Director no later than Friday 6 August 2010.

Noted.

E.47/10
(ES.2/10)

Dogs (Amendment) Bill – Stakeholder Consultation

Members were reminded that Carrickfergus Borough Council had submitted comments at the consultation stage and correspondence had now been received from DARD seeking the views of stakeholders on the above Bill.

Details could be viewed at http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/agriculture/2007mandate/public/pn_dogs_bill.htm or a hard copy had been placed in Committee Room 2 for Members' perusal.

Consultation responses and the Departmental analysis and response had also been published online at www.dardni.gov.uk/index/consultations/active-consultations/dog-control-consultation.htm.

Noted.

E.48/10

'Chance of a Lifetime' Programme

Members were advised that the Environmental Health section had been recently contacted on behalf of Bill Donnan, Co-ordinator of the Chance of a Lifetime Programme – a scheme to reduce the number of dogs humanely destroyed in Northern Ireland (<http://www.assisi-ni.org/chance-of-a-lifetime/>).

Every year around 4000 dogs were destroyed in Northern Ireland, which made up around 40% of all humane destructions in the UK. With this in mind, the Assisi Sanctuary in Conlig launched the Chance of a Lifetime Programme in 2003, saving the lives of as many dogs as possible.

Every week they organised the collection of dogs from Council Pounds and Sanctuaries throughout Northern Ireland and transferred them to sanctuaries in England, where the opportunity to find a loving home was greatly increased.

The programme was carried out by Chance of a Lifetime, Assisi and the Dogs Trust at a cost of £400 per trip (8 dogs were transported per

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trip). With Carrickfergus Borough Council's Dog Pound now receiving dogs on behalf of Belfast City Council we had been asked to consider joining the scheme.

All the programme asked was that each dog received a first vaccination (to be provided by a local vet for a fee of £20 per dog), a relatively small amount to pay compared to destroying an animal (humane destruction and disposal costs approximately £30 per dog and numbers destroyed must be reported to DARD).

The only other anticipated costs associated with the scheme was likely to be a small amount of overtime for staff to transfer dogs to the programme's van prior to sailings to mainland UK (Fridays at 9.00 pm and Wednesdays at 8.00 am) as these took place outside normal Dog Pound opening hours.

Humane destruction statistics for 2007 to 2009 in Carrickfergus were detailed below.

| Year | No. dogs destroyed |
|-------------|---------------------------|
| 2009 | 23 |
| 2008 | 32 |
| 2007 | 39 |

It was noted that not all unwanted/unclaimed dogs that came to the Pound would be suitable for re-homing, either due to old age, ill health or temperament (eg. the dog might have attacked livestock, people or other dogs).

Dogs re-homed under the scheme were first transferred to a Dogs Trust facility.

Many go to the Flagship Kenilworth facility

(<http://www.dogstrust.org.uk/rehoming/searchcentres/kenilworth/default.aspx>). .

Both dogs and potential owners undergo thorough checks before re-homing could take place.

The Chance of a Lifetime Programme would be featured in a BBC Panorama programme scheduled to be shown on BBC1 on 2 August 2010. The BBC had been investigating the high rates of humane destruction of dogs in Northern Ireland.

It was recommended that Carrickfergus Borough Council joined the Chance of a Lifetime scheme, initially for a period of 6 months, with a

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review of the arrangements to be carried out after that time.

Various Members outlined their support for this Programme.

Councillor L McClurg requested the figures for dogs destroyed in Belfast, bearing in mind that this operation was now moving to Carrickfergus.

The Director stated the main difference would appear in the 2009 figures as there were a number of pit-bull operations carried out and dogs destroyed as a result.

Councillor Beggs enquired as to what was being done to educate the dog owners with the view to reducing the number of unwanted dogs.

The Director stated that information would be placed on the website in this connection.

It was Proposed by Alderman Ashe, Seconded by Councillor Dickson, that Council join the Chance of a Lifetime scheme for the initial period of 6 months.

On the Proposal being put to the meeting, 13 Members voted in favour, with 1 Member not voting.

The Chairman declared the Proposal carried.

E.49/10
(ES.54/09)
(ES.14/10)

The Landfill Allowance Scheme (NI) Regulations 2004 – Scheme Year 2009/10 – Draft Reconciliation

Members had been circulated with copy correspondence received from NIEA Land Resource Management Unit regarding the above and advising that the total amount of BMW sent to landfill by Carrickfergus Borough Council, for the scheme year 2009/10, was 9,154 tonnes equating to 85.51% utilisation of the allocated allowances available for the scheme year.

Noted.

CONCLUSION OF MEETING

The meeting terminated at 7.55 pm, when those Members present were as listed on page 1.