

RHS Committee Meeting

4 Feb 2025 / 08:00 PM / MEETING

Meeting details

Julia's house

Attendees

Julia Valentine, Dominic Furlong, Stefania Rosso, Christopher Paul, Cllr Raphael Hill, Cllr Tim Rowkins (Cabinet Member for Net Zero & Environmental Services)

Apologies: Gary Jenkins, Sam Sheils

Agenda

1. Reporter:
 - a. Almost finished! Needs to go to print latest by next week - reviewed in meeting
 - b. New volunteer for the Reporter: Graphic Designer, Liran Notik
 - i. Offered to create form to make it easier for people to register interest in volunteering for RHS activities
 - ii. Offered to create imagery for more regular posts on FBK
 - c. Advent windows - Heidi Green sent pics - Sam & Julia decided on no 20 to win prize
 - d. 25th anniversary of RHS: Suggestion is for 19th July in Reporter
 - i. L-K to get the 66 names signed off
2. Planning consultations
 - a. Expansion of recycling service - waste will be stored in sealed containers
 - b. Going to Uckfield composting facility by the end of the day once collected - compost goes to farmers, community groups, etc
 - c. Complaints / queries from local community compiled by Dominic - commented on by Tim
 - i. Food waste & odour: waste transfer site (not recycling) - airlock system was never fitted as according to planning permission & there are vents where there weren't supposed to be
 1. No increase in volume - it's still the same amount, just separated
 2. People are more conscious when it's separated
 3. It'll be put immediately into sealed containers (currently it's not)
 - ii. Comparison should not be made with Newhaven as that's not in a residential area
 - iii. There's another site - Hangleton - that would make sense instead of Hollingdean that's not in a residential area - the EA made the suggestion food should be separated and sent there in 2014
 1. It's designated for aggregate and building waste

- 2. Devolution may give the council to more power over this decision
 - iv. Could it not be taken directly to Uckfield
 - 1. Wouldn't work in terms of efficiency - not possible for all the trucks to go back and forth from Uckfield
 - 2. Being rolled out 15K houses at a time
 - a. Starting with easiest bits, i.e. suburbs, detached
 - v. Magpie recycling down
 - 1. Recycling will be replaced by council - we're doing poorly
 - 2. Recycling rates are measured on weight
 - 3. Target in medium term is 35% up from 27%
 - 4. Recycling goes to incinerator when people contaminate it
 - vi. Recycling hard plastics not done any more
 - 1. Sub-contractor just left so we can't recycle that any more
 - vii. Fires at site - 3 in last 5 years - an officer's report by ETS committee was called for in Nov 2019 - Dominic tried following up with various people every year after but never heard back. Lawyer recommended going to the ombudsman about maladministration.
 - 1. This is a good time to do a report into the suitability of the location of the site (Tim will look into whether it originally happened first)
 - 2. Would be a good idea to rephrase it in light of new waste being collected and rise of vapes - short-term impact
 - 3. This may well be looked at again under devolution
- 3. Crime & road safety
 - a. Speed gun training
 - i. Need 6 people to do it
 - ii. What do we do with the data
 - b. Asked PCSOs about the breakdown of crime figures - not heard back yet
 - c. Crime is decreasing
- 4. Greening project
 - a. Shared Prosperity fund - sending confirmation Dominic
 - b. Still waiting to hear back from starbucks and national gardens association community gardens grants worth £11K
 - c. There will be a callout for volunteers to fill with soil and for regular volunteers
- 5. Good Gym
 - a. Could help with planters post April
 - b. 15th April is the next date - graffiti
- 6. AOB
 - a. Question from ITV News about safety issues including Dudeney Court, Falcon Court and Kingfisher. These are built using a method of construction known as the Large Panel System.
 - i. Council looking at what the options are to resolve
 - ii. Appointed interim director to work on large panel system
 - iii. Housing panels being advised, e.g. Sylvan Hall

Action items

- Tim: give info on compost for pocket park
- Julia: add note about ordering wheelie bins & do not do plastic bottles - it's coming hopefully in spring
- Julia: Tell them to contact the blocks - north area housing panel would be a good idea to join
- Julia: Crime report - update reporter with
- Chris: respond to the police officer who got back about speeding
- Julia: Add good gym date to reporter - 15 April
- Julia: Sort out prize for advent window

Next date and agenda items for next meeting

Meeting every first Tuesday of the month

Next meeting date: 4th March 2024 - 8pm

Location: 85 Princes Crescent (Julia's house) + Online

Next time:

- What to do with the noticeboards