

## **Minutes from this meeting**

### **Parks, Grounds and Streets advisory group – 31 October 2018**

#### **1. Introduction and Welcome**

Cllr Norman Hampshire East Lothian Council welcomed the group to the meeting which was taking place at the Park Hotel in Kilmarnock.

#### **2. Attendance & Apologies**

See attached.

#### **3. Minutes of Previous Meeting (8 August 2018)**

The minutes of the previous meeting were deemed to be a true and accurate record.

#### **4. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **5. Influencing the protection of parks: An overview and update on the MHCLG Parks Action Group (England)**

Paul O'Brien, Chief Executive, APSE provided the group with a detailed update on the PAG. Paul provided the group with information on the background leading towards the creation of the group as well as providing attendees with information on the 6 workstreams the members of the group were undertaking. These included:-

- Creating a future vision for parks
- Looking at funding
- Vision of the 21<sup>st</sup> century Parks Manager
- Setting future standards
- Increasing the use of parks for all groups
- Looking at community involvement

As part of the presentation Paul provided the group with information on the areas of workstreams which APSE were involved in including the vision of the 21<sup>st</sup> century Parks Manager. The presentation also included information on some of the facts and figures from English local authorities and their journeys towards self-financing.

Following the presentation there was a discussion as to whether the group felt that something similar should be undertaken in Scotland. It was agreed that following completion of the APSE report on a 21<sup>st</sup> century parks manager, the core issues and information should be pulled together for review of a small sub-group of the advisory group with a view to producing something covering a Scottish perspective.

#### **6. Health & Safety training needs for frontline staff**

Stuart Pryde, Secretary of the group and Principal Amenity Officer for East Lothian Council provided a presentation covering areas of Health & Safety which had been pulled together initially following discussions from the Aviemore conference in May 2018 as well as further work from Stuart.

The group agreed that it should look at H&S needs and that for the next meeting this should be developed further with a view to providing a similar consist approach across Local Authorities in Scotland.

## **7. Litter on the Trunk Road Network - update**

Stuart Pryde provided the group with the most recent update regarding the Trunk Road Litter issue which APSE was pursuing on behalf of its members. Following the Cabinet re-shuffle APSE had made contact with the new Cabinet Secretary, Michael Matheson MSP to provide a brief overview of the correspondence so far. Mr Matheson responded at the end of September to confirm that Transport Scotland and Scottish Government officials were exploring the proposal from APSE, including if and how this might be reflected in the future maintenance contracts. However, given that there are a range of other policy issues across various government portfolios which the proposal relates to, it was important that this review was robust. Therefore, he had asked Transport Scotland colleagues to provide a progress update at the end of November and offer a meeting at this point should it be felt necessary.

APSE will continue to have this item on the agenda as a standing item in order to keep the membership fully up to date of any developments.

## **8. Member feedback on any other managers' forums / focus groups**

The group discussed some of the topics and areas being covered at the other groups including SBBG and the Service Optimisation working group.

## **9. Enterprise**

Michelle Thompson of East Renfrewshire Council highlighted to the group that the Council had recently had Andy Mudd, Head of Solutions within APSE up for 2 days to cover waste and parks with a focus on commercialisation.

Louise Melville also updated the group that the Scottish Commercialisation competition had been running over the course of October and the independent panel were just about to commence a review of the 27 entries submitted from a wide number of areas including catering, cleaning, IT, training, waste, street lighting and trading standards etc.

## **10. APSE update**

Louise Melville provided an update on the current work of the Association, including the latest briefings, publications, recent advocacy work, network queries, upcoming APSE Energy and APSE Training events in Scotland, the work of APSE Solutions and upcoming Scottish and National seminars. This included information on the upcoming Performance Networks conference which is taking place at the start of December.

## **11. A.O.C.B.**

LAMS

Jamie Fry of Zero Waste Scotland agreed to provide Louise Melville with information regarding the potential development of the litter monitoring system to include LAMS only surveys to be undertaken. Please see below:-

APSE have been working with Zero Waste Scotland, Keep Scotland Beautiful and Local Authorities on the development of the Litter Monitoring System. The system is being trialled until February 2019 and currently allows capture of litter surveys and flytipping incidents. LAMS categories are included as an optional element but it does not allow a LAMS-only survey

to be logged e.g. you need to do a full litter survey in order to capture the LAMS data. Please note, if you are unfamiliar with LAMS, please click on the following webpage: [CLICK HERE](#)

We want to gauge interest from LAMS authorities in a dedicated LAMS survey within the app. This would be accessed separately from the litter monitoring and flytipping allowing LAMS-only surveys to be captured. This is being considered in order to make best use of existing software to avoid duplication of effort and multiple apps on mobile devices. However, it is important that the decision provides best value for money and includes the features required. APSE have also been working with Bbits (who produced Love Clean Streets) to provide the same function. To date this has only been promoted to authorities in England, Northern Ireland and Wales. An alternative to the development within the Litter Monitoring System is that the Bbits software is made available to Scottish authorities.

Please share your initial thoughts on the software options with Debbie Johns. If there is sufficient interest we will schedule a short workshop to explore the requirements so costs can be determined. If it was agreed to proceed, development would begin early in the next financial year.

### **11. Date for next meeting**

The date of the next meeting is 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019 and is kindly being hosted by West Lothian Council at their new Service Centre in Bathgate.

### **13. Lunch**

### **14. Litter Managers Network**

Please see separate minutes for this.

### **Attendee List**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Authority</b>
Louise Melville	APSE
Paul O'Brien	APSE
Brian Murphy	East Ayrshire Council
Brian Jones	East Ayrshire Council
Thomas McMenamin	East Dunbartonshire Council
Cllr Norman Hampshire	East Lothian Council
Stuart Pryde	East Lothian Council
Dougie Fox	East Lothian Council
Andrew Hogarth	East Lothian Council
Michelle Thompson	East Renfrewshire Council
Mark Kirkland	East Renfrewshire Council
Elaine Downie	Fife Council
Justin Venton	Midlothian Council
Bruce Reekie	Perth & Kinross Council
Andy Clegg	Perth & Kinross Council
Ken Gray	Renfrewshire Council
Paul Dougall	South Ayrshire Council

John Morrison	South Ayrshire Council
Cllr John Anderson	South Lanarkshire Council
Craig Gardner	Stirling Council
Colin Mackay	Stirling Council
Andy Johnston	West Lothian Council
Cllr Tom Conn	West Lothian Council
Jamie Fry	Zero Waste Scotland

### **Apologies**

Gordon Crockatt	East Ayrshire Council
Colin Bell	Moray Council
Allan Walker	Inverclyde Council
Mark Findlay	North Lanarkshire Council
Jason Hedley	Scottish Borders Council
Steve McDermott	Highland Council
David Lees	West Lothian Council