

Minutes of the 10th Open Meeting of the Environment & Natural Resources Committee held on Thursday, 17th May 2018 @ 09:10am in the Council Chamber.

Present:	Hon. Russell K Yon	-	Chairman
	Hon. Dr. Corinda Essex	-	Deputy Chairman
	Hon. Gavin Ellick	-	Member
	Hon. Cyril K Leo	-	Member
	Hon. Cruyff G Buckley	-	Member
	Mr Derek Henry	-	Director of ENRD
	Mr Nicky Lawrence	-	Secretary
Invited:	Mr Deon Robbertse	-	Roads Manager
	Mr Darren Francis	-	Roads Inspector

Welcome.

The Chairman welcomed everyone and proceeded with the Open Agenda of the Environment & Natural Resources Committee.

Open Agenda.

10.1 Matters arising from the minutes of 19th April 2018.

Safety concerns about the Jamestown 'Run'.

The member pursuing this issue informed members that a meeting has been held with the St Helena National Trust (SHNT), the Heritage Society (HS) and Enterprise St Helena (ESH). A site visit along the 'Run' has also taken place and some safety issues were noted, especially trip hazards and the lack of safety rails. It was suggested that SHG be approached for funding, whilst SHNT would do some costing work. The HS will approach Connect St Helena (CSH) regarding safety issues, mainly trip hazards created by sewage drains. ESH/Tourism cannot assist with funding unless this is a Tourism enhancement project. The Geographic Information System (GIS) Staff will survey and produce a map of the 'Run'.

A member stated that the 'Run' is used for tourism purposes, but repair or remedial works would not qualify for funding. Installation of safety rails or upgrades to the area will qualify. It is known that tours are conducted through the 'Run'. It was suggested that the member request to see the relevant ESH policies and study them before the next meeting. He should also engage with the Director of Tourism and the Tour Operators and invite them to the next meeting of the Group.

The Director expressed concern about funding due to the current economic situation. The Chairman stated that the SHNT could not help financially but could use their expertise in other ways, e.g. provide staff with stonemason's skills.

Action: Member

Heritage Report.

The Chairman reported that there are a few outstanding issues which need to be completed by the Environment and Natural Resources Directorate. After the return of the Civil Engineer these issues will be addressed and the document will be taken to an Elected Members Informal Legislative Council meeting for their perusal.

Action: Chairman

Update on Road Traffic Regulations.

The Chairman reported that the Regulations are with the Attorney General's (AG) Chambers for drafting. The AG is currently off island and the Regulations will be pursued upon her return.

Action: Chairman.

Commercial Vehicle Parking Survey in Jamestown.

Questionnaires have been despatched to all businesses and so far 14 responses have been received. It was agreed that the deadline will be extended to the 25th May to allow for all questionnaires to be returned.

Action: Secretary

Presentation of Draft Building Regulations, 2018.

The Chairman told members that the draft Building Regulations were presented at an Informal Legislative Council Meeting on the 27th April, 2018.

Community & District Roads.

This involves a review of the current Roads Policy to enable efficient use of grant funding. Originally funding up to a value of £2,500.00 was granted for the purchase of rubble and the hire of a roller on the understanding that the recipients will carry out the work themselves. Recently, it has been observed that contractors were being engaged by the recipients to create tarmac surfaced roads. Permission has been granted in the past to certain individuals for specific reasons, i.e. residents of Unity Cottage in lower Sandy Bay.

A member stressed that the offer letter needs to be clearer to emphasise that the applicant must undertake the works themselves; and no further funding will be granted if they are considering using a contractor to carry out the works.

The Chairman said that there are cases whereby new builders are not adhering to the 'Decision Notice' issued by the Planning Authority.

Condition 'd' of the Decision Notice states that *'you are responsible for all waters accumulating on the building site which shall be disposed off in an appropriate manner and not be a nuisance to neighbours nor allowed to discharge onto any road'*.

The Chairman made the point that grant funding may have been awarded to someone in need to upgrade their road only to have it ruined by a neighbour not adhering to the above condition.

Action: Chairman.

Car parks near Shy Road.

The Roads Manager reported that works have been completed to allow a few cars to park in this area.

Road to Breakneck Valley.

The Chairman told members that the current proposal is for Mr McDaniel to create an access to Breakneck Valley. Mr McDaniel is currently off island but a site visit is planned with his son to clarify if and where any further excavations or infill needs to take place. The Engineer has requested details of vehicles and weights to be used on this road so that a structure can be put in place. Following this a plan can be drawn up and submitted to the Planning Authority for approval.

Action: Chairman.

Revised Forestry Fees & Charges.

A member had a query for the Service Provider which has now been addressed.

Proposals for Pesticides Regulations.

The Chairman reported that the proposals for Pesticides Regulations have been forwarded to the Attorney General's Chambers for drafting.

