



Minutes

Meeting of Kent and Medway Environmental Protection Group

Thursday 13th May 2010

Commencing 10:00am

At: Dover District Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover CT16 3PJ

In attendance

Peter Thomason - T & M Borough Council
(Chair)
Malcolm Webb - Sevenoaks District Council
(Vice Chair)
Julie Oates - Canterbury City Council
(Secretary)
Tracey Butler - Ashford Borough Council

Paul Neagle - Dover District Council
Allan Glasson - Gravesham Borough Council
Steve Wilcock – Maidstone Borough Council
Lucy Kirk - Medway Council
Sarah Hogben – Shepway District Council
Penny Button - Thanet District Council

Apologies

Richard Woodcock - Ashford Borough Council
Sue Kennedy - Swale Borough Council
John McCullough - Tunbridge Wells BC
Duncan Haynes - Tunbridge Wells BC
Julie Short – Dartford Borough Council

Meeting commenced: 10am
Meeting finished: 12.30pm

CPD Awarded:
2 hours core CPD
30mins supplementary CPD

Total CPD Awarded:
(9 members)

18 hours core CPD
4 hours 30 mins supplementary CPD

1	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Peter welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>	<p>Action</p> <p>None</p>
2	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Sue Kennedy - Swale Borough Council Richard Woodcock - Ashford Borough Council John McCullough - Tunbridge Wells BC Duncan Haynes - Tunbridge Wells BC</p>	<p>None</p>
3	<p>Minutes and matters arising</p> <p>The minutes for the last meeting on 14th January 2010 at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council were agreed.</p> <p>AG – Meeting with KCC Highways hasn't happened yet. PN, AG & RW to follow up & meet with KCC (Russell Boorman).</p> <p>Planning consultation – group couldn't meet prior to consultation deadline, so no comments made. JF advised that Contaminated Land Forum had put forward comments to KPOG but not actioned yet.</p> <p>JAO – will continue as Secretary to the group until the end of 2010.</p> <p>Private Water group has met once. Next meeting due end of May/beginning of June.</p>	<p>AG/PN/RW</p>
4	<p>Environment Agency update - Duncan McClintock (Senior Environment Officer, Kent & East Sussex area)</p> <p>Duncan provided an update on waste exemptions (including low risk exemptions) under the Environmental Permitting Regulations. As of 06/04/10 these Regulations changed and most waste activities the EA deals with are affected. The aim is to de-regularise operations that are considered 'low risk'. This results in fewer inspections by EA officers – giving them more time to target problematical operations or deal with complaints.</p> <p>The issue of Discharge Consents for domestic sewage treatment plants has also changed. For small (most domestic) units, a Discharge Consent will no longer be needed, an Exemption (free) will be granted on request.</p> <p>The responsibility for some exemptions now falls to the Local Authorities eg: T& Exemption (crushing, grinding etc of concrete).</p>	<p>None</p>

	<p>Other EA priorities at the moment include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Water Framework Directive – improving biological, chemical and recreational water quality. 2) Pilot project for Site Waste Management Plans in the South East – EA are auditing sites of a contract value in excess of £300,000. 3) Response and Management roles – looking to provide a better service to Police, Fire, LA etc 4) Looking at a robust risk approach to waste sites to ensure better compliance with Permits. 5) Petrol Filling Stations – targeting any PFS in priority river stretches or ground water zones to ensure improved any discharges and pollution prevention measures. 	None
5	<p>Speaker for CIEH Branch Meeting</p> <p>Members came up with a number of suggestions:</p> <p>Alex Green – Kent Sustainable Business Partnership Nigel Jenkins – Air Alert system for Sussex Jo Green – AEAT – Kent & Medway Air Quality Partnership</p> <p>It was agreed that JAO would follow these up to see who was available.</p>	JAO
6	<p>Future programme/speakers</p> <p>16/09/10 – KCC Highways (Shepway (DC) 13/01/11 – to be decided (Gravesend BC)</p>	ALL
7	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Thanet (PB) – Update on Thanet police’s involvement in noise. Public perception that Police fail in responding to noise complaints. As a result, Thanet Police are working with TDC’s anti-social behaviour team to provide a reactive service 1500-2300 Mon - Thurs and 1500–0200 Fri – Sat, dealing with any form of Asb complaint. Funded by TDC.</p> <p>General discussion ensued regarding different approaches and partnerships in differing LA areas. The question of consistency of approach was raised by MW. There was concern by all present regarding this. PT asked PN to raise this issue at the next EHMG.</p> <p>Medway (LK) – Car alarms – further problems with keyholder details being obtained from Police. JAO to forward standard wording used by CCC. Also problems with locksmiths breaking into some cars. If can’t gain access to car to disconnect the alarm, need to move vehicle to a safe and secure depot. SW advised that all LA should make sure they have access to such a place.</p>	PN JAO

Maidstone (SW) – Advised that Maidstone are involved in the Kent International Gateway Project which will involve a number of Section 61 consents.

Tunbridge Wells (DH) – JAO raised a matter on behalf of DH relating to the use of tape recorders for nuisance recordings by their Community Safety Unit. It was agreed any recordings made should be done on appropriate equipment suitable for that sue, calibrated etc. Anything else is likely to result in the evidence not being admissible.

Dover (PN) – There is a LACORS/CIEH consultation on competency for Contaminated Land Officers. JF advises that Contaminated Land Forum already discussed and to reply. (He will check with John Newington - (CL Forum Chair).

Issue of lighting on planning applications was discussed. ILE guidance should be used as far as possible. Any complex schemes should be checked by an appropriately qualified person if LA does not have the expertise.

The meeting concluded at 12.20pm.

I certify that these minutes are a true and accurate account of the meeting.

Signed: _____ P Thomason _____

Mr. P. Thomason
Chair, Kent and Medway Environmental Protection Group

Dated: **16th September 2010**