

# **Environment and Transportation Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting**

**21<sup>st</sup> September 2010  
Town Hall.**

## **Waste and recycling strategy**

I wanted to attend this meeting primarily because it included a 'call in' which procedure I had not witnessed before. Two cllrs called in this decision by the cabinet as they were not satisfied with some aspects of it. After presenting their cases the leader of the council Cllr Garland, Cllr Shearard cabinet member for Environment and Jennifer Gosling, Waste Collection Manager gave some more in depth information to the two and this satisfied them, together with an assurance to make some clarification to the original decision. The result was that the committee voted to take no further action with the approval of the two cllrs.

You might think that this subject was rather boring but you would be wrong. I found the presentation by Jennifer Gosling to be quite fascinating in so much as to reveal how much detailed work had been gone into by the waste dept officers. You would not believe the amount of information that they had gathered in such specific detail to come to these decisions for the future of MBC waste management. I will speak of some of them at the next Full Council rather than put them all down here.

Cllr Garland made much of Eric Pickles and his off the cuff remarks that have been taken so seriously even though they have never been mentioned in Parliament let alone become law.

I was particularly interested to hear of the details concerning education and the care that had been taken to focus on areas of the borough where it would be most effective and needed. Some distressing facts emerged about how ignorant some sections of society still were regarding recycling whilst on the whole it is a spectacular success. Ms Gosling cited the case of plastic bags in supermarkets and how ten or even five years ago it would have been unthinkable to not use them. Compare with today and what a little education combined with incentives have done.

She also spoke of what is often seen as waste packaging for example selling four peaches in a plastic case. But she pointed out that the cost of packaging in this instance was outweighed by the fact that the fruit was kept from damage and ultimately wasting which conventional bagging would possibly cause. I thought this most instructive and shall think twice before condemning what appears to be excessive packaging in the future.

A very interesting evening indeed.

***Peter 28-09-2010***