

LEISURE, ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of a meeting held in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Rickmansworth, on Wednesday 10 October 2018 from 7.30pm to 8.30pm.

Councillors present:

Councillors Chris Lloyd (Lead Member for Leisure)

Rupert Barnes

Donna Duncan

Stephen King

Sarah Nelmes (substitute for Cllr Roger Seabourne)

David Sansom

Alex Michaels (Lead Member Environmental Services)

Alison Scarth

Kate Turner

Alison Wall

Phil Williams

Officers:

Ray Figg, Head of Community Services

Charlotte Gomes – Leisure Development Manager

Geof Muggeridge, Director of Community and Environmental Services

Nigel Pollard – Section Head, Financial Planning and Analysis

Karl Stonebank – Partnerships Officer

Sherrie Ralton, Committee Manager

John Sewell – Area Contracts Manager SLM

Councillor Chris Lloyd in the Chair

LEC 17/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Roger Seabourne (Councillor Sarah Nelmes substitute).

LEC 18/18 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Leisure, Environment and Community Committee meeting held on Wednesday 22 August 2018 were amended with the addition of Councillor Stephen King's name under Councillors Present and confirmed as a correct record.

LEC 19/18 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

LEC 20/18 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were none.

LEC 21/18 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT MONTH 4 (July)

Section Head, Financial Planning and Analysis introduced the report. It had been presented to the Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 4 September 2018, which sought approval to a change in the Council's 2018-2021 medium-term financial plan.

A Member queried why the renovation of the toilets at Watersmeet Theatre had been put back. They were advised that since the contract for renovation was awarded the Company had cancelled so the decision was made to defer the work for a year.

Following a request by a Member, the Head of Community Services agreed to provide a breakdown of the £1million required to cover refurbishment works for William Penn Leisure Centre and Rickmansworth Golf Course/Fairway Inn.

Post meeting note: The £1 million covers the following works at William Penn Leisure Centre: £105,000 to convert the current MUGA to 2x 3G 5-a-side pitches, £149,000 to refurbish the fitness suite and dry-side changing rooms , £635,000 for the variant works in the sports hall (to include clip n climb, soft play, party rooms, new café servery) and £36,000 contingency. For Rickmansworth Golf Course/Fairway Inn, £75,000 to refurbish the bar/function area.'

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted

LEISURE

LEC 22/18 WILLIAM PENN USAGE INFORMATION UPDATE

This report provided Members with William Penn's usage data for the period 1 August to 30 September 2018.

The Head of Community Services reported that the table at paragraph 2.6 of the report that showed 62 attendees in the Studio section had now been amended within the usage data.

A Member had pointed out a discrepancy of 32 on the usage data for Active Life in September which Active Life had advised should read 174 not 142 as stated. The Area Contracts Manager from SLM said 142 is the number they had via their booking system and the difference may have something to do with Active Life users having Active Life sessions within their Leisure Centre membership subscription. SLM to meet with Active Life to agree numbers. Once agreed the Head of Community Services would provide a post meeting note to the Committee and amend figures as appropriate.

The Area Contracts Manager from SLM confirmed that, although the three football group bookings had chosen to move to the new outdoor pitch, the Sports Hall could still be booked for football subject to availability.

A Member had been advised of instances of the Badminton Courts being double booked. The Member was asked to forward details of dates and times to the Head of Community Services so this could be investigated with SLM.

The Area Contracts Manager from SLM confirmed that the Leisure Centre User Forum had taken place at William Penn in mid-September. There had been four groups who attended the William Penn Session, namely 2 Badminton groups, Taekwondo and a Table Tennis group. In addition there were separate 'Meet the Manager' sessions. The Focus Groups would continue to take place every 6 months and 'Meet the Manager' sessions every 1 – 2 months. The minutes showing any issues would be displayed at William Penn and the Head of Community Services agreed in the short term for copies to be forwarded to the LEC Committee.

A concern was raised that the groups were not able to discuss the William Penn Sports Hall at the Users Forum. It was pointed out that the purpose of the User Forums was to address issues that require resolution now, not future issues.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

LEC 23/18 PLAY AREA UPDATES

The report provided Members with proposals for funding the refurbishment of Cassiobridge Play Area and the future of play provision within Chorleywood.

The Leisure Development Manager advised the Committee that the Hockey Club had formally withdrawn from the All Weather Pitch Project at Scotsbridge, which was being part funded by £50,000 S106 money, therefore it had been proposed for the funding to be used to refurbish the Cassiobridge Play Area.

Following consultation it had been recommended to put the Chorleywood Wonder Wood on hold until there was more conclusive evidence that the community were in favour of the scheme.

Members made the following points:

- Disappointment that there will not be a playground in the area.
- A Member said that given that the results of the survey showed that there was still a majority in favour of the development and there was a need for alternative play facilities within Chorleywood an amendment was proposed by Councillor Phil Williams that:

'Councillors recommend progressing with the project by formally approaching the Parish Council for permission to install the Wonder Wood at site 15a. However, should the Parish Council not wish to progress the scheme, Officers continue with the proposal to develop the Swillet play area as detailed within points 2.19, 2.20 and 2.21 of the report'.

This amendment was duly seconded by Councillor Alex Michaels.

A question was raised as to how much of the original £117,000 Chorleywood Wonder Wood budget had been spent. The Leisure

Development Manager advised they were awaiting final cost details and would circulate to the Committee once received.

- Due to the location of the Cassiobridge Play Area, many people from Watford would be using the Play Area. A suggestion was made to approach Watford Borough Council for possible contributions towards the refurbishment. This was agreed and the Leisure Development Manager would contact Watford and the Parish Council.
- Although many people wish to preserve the open common area, it would still be available as an enormous play area as it was.
- There was strong agreement for the proposed development on Chorleywood Common and half the residents supported the site. The only group not consulted were the young people. A Member had visited all four schools in Chorleywood and the children were all desperate for a play area.
- The Chairman asked for the siting of equipment at the Cassiobridge Play Area to take into account the possibility of the Croxley Rail Link project being revisited in the future to avoid the loss of any equipment

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 35(b) Michael Hyde spoke against the Chorleywood Wonder Wood recommendation.

A Member asked for Officers to consider an upgrade for the Primrose Hill Play Area in Kings Langley, which serves a large area of the community and would require work in the medium term. He asked for funding options to be considered, Abbots Langley Parish Council to be approached and to have it added it to the Work Programme. It was suggested that due to its geographical boundaries Dacorum Council and Kings Langley Parish Council could all be approached for contributions.

On being put to the Committee the recommendations at 15.1 and 15.2 for the Cassiobridge Play Area with the addition of 2 modifications: 1) Watford Borough Council and Croxley Green Parish Council being approached for contributions to increase the budget and 2) The consideration of the siting of the equipment in the event of the Croxley Rail Link being reinstated, were declared CARRIED the voting being unanimous.

On being put to the Committee together with the amendment the recommendations at 15.3 and 15.4 were declared CARRIED the voting being 6 For; 3 Against and 2 abstentions.

Councillor Alex Michaels moved, seconded by Councillor Sarah Nelmes for a report to come back to the Committee on the Primrose Hill Play area. The item was CARRIED, the voting being unanimous.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That £50,000 of Section 106 funds, which was previously allocated to the All Weather Pitch development at Scotsbridge, be used as part of the Cassiobridge play area refurbishment; with the following additions that Watford Borough Council and Croxley Green Parish Council be approached for contributions to the project. In addition, the siting of the play area be considered in the event of the Croxley Rail Link being reinstated.

- 2) That the remaining £20,000 of capital grant budget for 2018/19 be utilised towards Cassiobridge play area refurbishment;
- 3) An amendment to the Chorleywood Wonder Wood proposal as follows: 'Councillors recommend progressing with the project by formally approaching Chorleywood Parish Council for permission to install the full Wonder Wood design at site 15a. However, should Chorleywood Parish Council not wish to progress the scheme, Officers continue with the proposal to develop the Swillet play area as detailed within points 2.19, 2.20 and 2.21 of the report'. This included using the funding from Chorleywood Wonder Wood for The Swillet play area and bringing the £50,000 allocation to The Swillet play area forwards from 2020/21 to 2019/20
- 4) Refurbishment of Primrose Hill Play Area to be added to the Work Programme

LEC 24/18 COMMISSIONING HEALTH AND WELLBEING PROJECTS

The purpose of the report was for the Committee to consider the following:

- The process of commissioning health and wellbeing projects using the Council's Grants budget from 2019/20 onwards.
- Allocation of the remainder of 2018/19 Grants budget.

The Partnerships Officer advised that the proposal would be brought to this Committee on 28 November as part of the Service Plans.

On being put to the Committee the recommendation was declared CARRIED the voting being unanimous.

RESOLVED:

1. That future health and wellbeing projects to be identified within Community Partnerships and Leisure and Landscape service plans as part of the Strategic Service and Financial Planning Framework.
2. That the committee allocate £8,280 of the remaining 2018/19 Leisure and Community Grants budget to the expansion of the Domestic Abuse Caseworker service, subject to other partner agencies identifying contributions to the sustained expansion of the service, and
3. That the committee allocate £20,000 of the remaining Capital Grants budget to the Cassiobridge Play area project, subject to other required funding being secured.

WORK PROGRAMME

LEC 25/18 WORK PROGRAMME

To agree the Committee's Work Programme with the following additions:

- Primrose Hill Play Area refurbishment.
- A report on the results of the Leisure Activities Consultation to be brought to the November Committee Meeting.

A Member raised concerns that the consultation appeared to be aimed at parents with young children and did not highlight all the implications. The Leisure Development Manager advised that a Frequently Asked Questions document had been added to the website which addressed this and it would be updated throughout the consultation process.

RESOLVED:

That subject to the changes above the work programme be agreed.

CHAIRMAN

DRAFT