
LEISURE, ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

Draft MINUTES

of a meeting held in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Rickmansworth, on Wednesday 16 January 2019 from 7.30pm to 8.40.

Councillors present:

Councillors Chris Lloyd (Lead Member Leisure)	Alex Michaels (Lead Member Environmental Services)
Roger Seabourne (Lead Member Community Safety and Partnerships)	David Sansom
Rupert Barnes	Alison Scarth
Stephen King	Kate Turner
Reena Ranger (Substitute for Cllr Donna Duncan)	Alison Wall
	Phil Williams

Officers:

Kelly Barnard – Leisure Contracts Officer
Andy Stovold – Head of Community Partnerships
Sherrie Ralton, Committee Manager

Councillor Roger Seabourne in the Chair

LEC 42/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Donna Duncan, substitute Member being Councillor Reena Ranger

LEC 43/18 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Leisure, Environment and Community Committee meeting held on Wednesday 28 November 2018 were confirmed as a correct record

LEC 44/18 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

LEC 45/18 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were none.

LEISURE

LEC 46/18 PETITIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 18

The Committee received a petition which had received 1574 signatures. The petition asked the Council to:

Take action to ensure that the sports hall was retained as a full sized hall for the future.

Everyone Active planned to turn half the sports hall into a crèche, clip and climb wall and soft play area. This meant that many sports that took place, such as netball, basketball, trampolining and large club badminton and tennis would no longer be played.

The full size sports hall enabled a great variety of sports and activities for the able bodied, disabled, young and old which would not be possible without it.

RESOLVED:

The petition be accepted. The Lead Petitioners be written to in acknowledgement of their submission.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PARTNERSHIPS

LEC 47/18 VIOLENT CRIME STRATEGY PRESENTATION

The Committee received a presentation entitled Violence and Exploitation – Developing a Local Response to the National Serious Violence Strategy, from the Head of Community Partnerships. This covered a strategy for Three Rivers District, National Strategy and also across Hertfordshire.

Work was being carried out with Families First Partnership, on trauma informed communities and an event would be taking place on Wednesday 3 April at Watersmeet Theatre. This would include community dialogue and dialogue with professionals of their understanding of the impact of trauma on young people's brain development and the risks posed to them later of developing addictive behaviour, violence, antisocial behaviour etc. *Post Meeting note: Further details of the event will be circulated to all Councillors once available.*

The following questions and comments were raised:

- Thanks were extended to the Community Partnerships Team for all the work that had been carried out over many years to access funding to enable the range of complex work to take place. Members would be interested to see it develop and to know what could be done to continue to support the team to gain additional funding.

The Head of Community Partnerships said that having a team with such an excellent skills mix working together enabled them to carry out the broad range of work required. This was key to them achieving the funding they receive. He stressed the importance of early intervention and wanted the Committee to understand that the young people involved in organised crime were often targeted victims of child abuse. Similar with adults being cuckooed in the District also being vulnerable and often needed safeguarding rather than criminal justice intervention.

- Are the team looking at how other authorities across the country, who have achieved results, have dealt with similar issues?

The Head of Community Partnerships advised that the team would never use intervention models with no evidence base. Interventions that they bid for and commission were based on best practice, not just in this country but around the world. The team had strong backgrounds in psychology and behavioural interventions as well as having contact with staff from Herts Mind Network. The team were constantly looking out for suitable trust and grant funds to apply for within both the public and private sector to provide support for these vulnerable groups.

- Is there a specific pathway within Rickmansworth and Watford where schools can refer pupils with high levels of absenteeism?

There are still Attendance Officers, part of Childrens' Services, with a referral pathway, but this was more effective at Primary School level. Within Secondary Schools there was a more mixed level of buy-in dependent upon the type of school, which made the data unreliable. A Multi-Agency Youth Crime Panel was being set up to enable different agencies to refer young people who they had concerns about. Information would be shared to identify the best intervention to offer the young person and their family, with a view to intervening before the young person's behaviour had reached a criminal stage. To start off with the group were reviewing the experiences of a cohort of young people involved in violent crime, either as perpetrators or as victims, so they could track back to better understand their previous journey and why they were not supported sooner.

The Chairman mentioned the new Ofsted Framework being set up to ensure that schools would no longer be able to hide difficult pupils in order to gain better results on inspection.

- How does working with Youth Connections fit into this?

The team had received funding this financial year from the Police and Crime Commissioner for 140 hours of one to one sessions for children at risk of Child Sexual Exploitation. Following these sessions the children were referred to mainstream group sessions provided by YC Herts to ensure on-going essential support within the community environment.

- Concerns about the increased level of knife crime within Hertfordshire and how this would be dealt with.

Strategic assessments were a starting point, then targets as to what would be done about it. They would expect to see knife crime go up in Hertfordshire as the more work that was carried out the more crime would be captured. A lot is considered to go unreported at present, especially with regards to the carrying of knives. Work was currently taking place on the range of indicators required to assess results.

- How can we let vulnerable people know that Three Rivers is a safe place to go for help?

There was a range of data available which helps identify the various types of vulnerable people within the community. The intention was to get targeted messages out to them with the development of partnership working.

RESOLVED:

That the presentation be noted.

WORK PROGRAMME

LEC 48/18 WORK PROGRAMME

The William Penn Usage information be removed from the Work Programme.

RESOLVED:

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

CHAIRMAN