

LEISURE, ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Of a meeting held in the Penn Chamber, Three Rivers House, Rickmansworth, on Wednesday 11 March from 7.30pm until 8.26pm.

Councillors present:

Councillors Chris Lloyd (Lead Member Leisure)	Phil Williams (Lead Member Environmental Services and Sustainability)
Roger Seabourne (Lead Member Community Safety and Partnerships)	Alison Scarth
David Major	Andrew Scarth (Substitute for Jon Tankard)
Donna Duncan	Alex Turner (Substitute for Kate Turner)
	Alison Wall

Also in attendance:

Malcolm Clarke – Waste and Environment Manager
Ray Figg – Head of Community Services
Charlotte Gomes – Leisure Development Manager
Jennie Probert – Environmental Strategy Manager
Josh Sills – Watersmeet Venue Manager
Andy Stovold - Head of Community Services
Temi Opeyemi – Interim Section Head - Accountancy
Mike Simpson – Committee and Web Officer
Jo Welton - Committee Manager
Cllr Diana Barber - Batchworth Community Council

Councillor Chris Lloyd in the Chair

LEC 39/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jon Tankard (substitute Member Cllr Andrew Scarth), Kate Turner (substitute Member Cllr Alex Turner) and David Sansom. The Chairman asked to note the absence due to illness of Committee Team member Sherrie Ralton.

LEC 40/19 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Leisure, Environment and Community Committee meeting held on 15 January 2020 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

LEC 41/19 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

LEC 42/19 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

LEC 43/19 BUDGET MONITORING (PERIOD 10)

The report covered the Committee's financial position over the medium term (2019 – 2023) as at Period 10 (end of January) which had been presented to the Policy & Resources Committee at its meeting on 9 March 2020.

A £3,000 overspend was largely the result of a reduction in income from licencing fees (vehicle and drivers' licences) which was largely offset by additional revenue for providing weed-spraying services for Herts County and an increase in the transport subsidy and other fees, with a total positive variance £0.952 million.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

LEC 44/19 SERVICE PLANNING 2020/2023

The Committee considered the following service plans for recommendation to Council:

- **Leisure and Landscapes**

The Leisure Development Manager introduced the new style service plan, the main difference being the split between Key Performance Indicators (KPI) and Service Performance Indicators which would better support the Council's new strategic framework.

Members had already seen the draft service plan in November, but were invited to ask any questions.

A Member asked what the timescale was on appointing a new Principal Landscape Officer. The Head of Community Services replied that with the Officer leaving it provided an opportunity to reassess the team as necessary, and no timeframe had been set. In the interim, the Trees and Landscape Team would report directly to him.

A Member asked whether a sustainable tree resilience strategy could be incorporated in the service plans. The Head of Community Services said it's something to add to the work programme in the summer for the Committee to consider.

POST MEETING NOTE: The Committee can only make decisions on items within policy and budget any report which is outside policy and budget has to be presented to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

A Member asked if an official opening was planned for the South Oxhey Leisure Centre. The Head of Community Services said as per the Member briefings and updates in the Information Bulletin, an official opening was

planned for late June or early July. Members would be invited to a preview when dates are confirmed.

The Head of Community Services confirmed a Green Flag accreditation application had been submitted for South Oxhey which included area behind the pavilion.

- **Community Partnerships**

The Head of Community Partnerships presented the team's Service Plans, and said the main changes were the KPIs. Three new Performance Indicators supported the corporate framework, two relating to Community Safety and one to the climate change strategy action plan, responsibility for which would be within the Community Partnerships team.

A Member praised the work done by Community Partnerships which was so good for the community.

- **Environmental Protection**

The Environmental Strategy Manager said the service plan differed from before in that the KPIs were split out from Service Performance Indicators and a new indicator had been added to identify schemes to promote recycling and waste.

A Member asked whether the textile recycling service had commenced. The Environmental Strategy Manager said the kerbside collection service began last April and was bookable online. Take-up was not massive but the service was being used, and promotion and publicity efforts were ongoing.

In response to a question, the Waste and Environment Manager confirmed that litter bins were sorted by hand at the depot and all recyclables separated.

A Member expressed their thanks to the Waste and Environment Manager for his team's work on combating and swiftly clearing up fly tipping. The Chairman added his thanks for the tree work undertaken in February in the aftermath of the storms.

- **Regulatory Services**

The Head of Community Services presented the Regulatory Services Service Plans.

On being put to the Committee it was agreed that the above service plans be recommended to Council, the voting being unanimous.

RESOLVED:

That the Service Plans 2020-23 be recommended to Council.

LEISURE

LEC 45/19 HERTFORDSHIRE YEAR OF CULTURE 2020

The Watersmeet Venue Manager made a presentation on the Hertfordshire Year of Culture campaign that would run through the current year and invited questions from Members.

A Member asked whether there was potential for the South Oxhey choir to be involved in the project. The Venue Manager said the presentation featured just a selection of the activities and participants booked to date, and anyone was free to apply to be included.

Another Member asked whether discussions had taken place with the Three Rivers Museum with regard to its involvement. The Venue Manager replied the Museum was not represented at any of the launch events but would follow up, just as he would in response to a similar question concerning the Hertfordshire Youth Orchestra.

If Members wished to nominate someone to be part of HYOC 2020 please contact him or Elaine Johnson (Arts Development Officer).

Members were advised that updates would appear in the Information Bulletin, and the Chairman suggested that Members encourage potential activities to contact the Venue Manager directly.

The Committee thanked the Venue Manager for his presentation.

RESOLVED:

Noted the contents of the HYOC 2020 presentation.

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PARTNERSHIPS

LEC 46/19 REVIEW OF SCHOOL PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER

The Head of Community Partnerships introduced the report regarding the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for Shepherd Primary School in Mill End, which required a recommendation to Council as PSPOs could not remain in place in perpetuity.

The report listed three options, the recommendation being to end the PSPO before its due date of 3 June 2020 as continued enforcement in the context of the department's current workload could not be prioritised. As neither the school nor the police wished to be involved with the enforcement of the PSPO, and in view of greater ASB demands on his team, the Head of Community Partnerships favoured an immediate discontinuation of the Order. In addition, the Council's Legal department had advised that there were potentially costly legal implications in retaining a PSPO without enforcing it.

A Member said that the situation in the immediate vicinity of the school was much better than when the PSPO was introduced in June 2018. A path connecting the William Penn car park to the school had been laid and a crossing patrol was in place. It was moved by the Chairman, duly seconded, that this detail be added to the recommendation.

A Member said they agreed with the proposal to terminate the Order and parking enforcement, and asked whether the matter could be discussed by Members at the Extraordinary meeting of Council on 23 March 2020. In

response it was said that was a constitutional issue which would require checking.

A Member said it was their understanding that no items could be added to the agenda other than those matters for which the meeting was called.

POST MEETING NOTE:

The PSPO Order will be recommended to the Annual Council meeting in May. The Extraordinary meeting of the Council on 23 March 2020 was being held to consider the unfinished business from the Council meeting on 25 February.

The Chairman said traffic issues at schools existed elsewhere in the District, namely Croxley Green, but knew of a scheme in South Oxhey that worked very successfully.

The Head of Community Partnerships said that all parking issues outside schools should be judged on their individual merits with regard to imposing a PSPO, and the Council's response in this matter was proportionate.

A Member asked about the effectiveness of the parking deterrents in South Oxhey. The Head of Community Partnerships said the feedback had been positive, and that good practices should be shared throughout the District.

A Member suggested that schoolchildren be encouraged to take part in a 'No Parking' scheme using hand-held placards to get the message over to parents. The Head of Community Partnerships said it was a good idea, and it would be worth looking into submitting a bid to the PCC's road safety fund.

The Chairman said he thought schools in Croxley Green would welcome the opportunity to be involved with such a pilot scheme.

A Member said they were working with a local primary school looking at trialling a roll-out zebra crossing which might be an option for other schools. Funding was potentially available from the County Council's locality budget and Safer Routes to School team.

On being put to the Committee the recommendations with the proposed amendment were declared CARRIED by the Chairman, the voting being unanimous.

RESOLVED:

- i. That the Committee recommends to Council that the PSPO be discharged as soon as possible.
- ii. That Committee recommends to Council to delegate responsibility to the Chief Executive to amend the constitution to reflect the discharge of the PSPO and
- iii. That the improvements in terms of parking near the school due to the installation of a footpath from the William Penn Car Park to the school and a Crossing Patrol be NOTED.

LEC 47/19 WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee reviewed its work programme. A Member asked that an item relating to Memorial Benches be added. The Head of Community Services said his understanding was that the matter was to be discussed between Planning and Leisure and would then be added to the work programme.

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It was requested that the Watersmeet Annual presentation be brought forward to the July meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the work programme and the suggestions for items be noted.

The Chairman thanked all Members of the Committee, substitute Members and officers for their work in relation to the Leisure, Environment and Community Committee during 2019-20.

CHAIRMAN