



## **Community & Civic Resources Committee**

You are summonsed to attend a meeting of the Community & Civic Resources Committee at the following, place and date.

Date: Tuesday 8 July 2008

Time: Immediately after the Planning Committee Meeting

Venue: Council Chamber, Town Hall, St John's Street, Devizes

Enquiries: Town Hall - Tel: 01380 722160

Chairman: Councillor Evans  
The Town Mayor (Councillor Mrs Burton)

Councillors:	Beinhorn	East	Gagen
	Hopkins	Leighton	Nash
	Mrs Taylor	Mrs Winchcombe	

## **AGENDA**

### **1. MINUTES**

To approve as a correct record and authorise the Chairman to sign the minutes of the Special Community and Civic Resources Committee Meeting held on 24 June 2008, which have been circulated alongside the agenda.

### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

### **3. DISCLOSURE(S) OF INTEREST**

To receive any disclosure(s) of interest by a Councillor or an officer in matters to be considered at this meeting, in accordance with provisions of Sections 94 or 117 of the Local Government Act 1972 or the National Code of Local Government Conduct.

**4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

At the Chairman's discretion, members of the public attending the meeting will be allowed to ask questions, make a statement or address the Council upon a matter of concern to that person which is relevant to the Council. A time limit of 5 minutes per person will be permitted, but this may be extended at the Chairman's discretion and a maximum period of 20 minutes has been allocated by the Council for this item of business

**5. REPORT FOR DECISION – STREET SCENE ENHANCEMENT, THE BRITTOX**

**Recommendation**

That the committee considers assisting the Devizes Development Partnership in gauging if there is any support to improve the street scene in the Brittox.

**Purpose of the Report**

To determine if this council wishes to support the Devizes Development Partnership in consultation it wishes to undertake to determine if there is a desire by the residents of Devizes to seek an improvement to the Brittox Street Scene.

**Background**

On the 9 June 2008 Devizes Development Partnership invited interested parties to a meeting to discuss the possibility of enhancing the Brittox, minutes are attached doc 5/1. At that meeting it was explained that the initiative flowed from the DCAPP Strategic Action plan to create an attractive and sustainable street scene. It was also explained that the DDP's primary objective was to strengthen the town's retail base by encouraging further inward investment by the private sector.

At the meeting it was highlighted that the Brittox was in the ownership of the County Council who has not been able to send a representative.

On advise of a District Council officer, the DDP are to undertake a consultation exercise to determine what, if any, support there is for this initiative. Various mechanisms are being considers for this, including an article in the Messenger, and possibly a public meeting.

Mr Mitch Roberts will be attending the meeting where he will set out his request to the Town Council.

**Options Considered**

The committee need to decide if

- they support the consultation process for the enhancement of the Brittox
- if they wish to allow the messenger to be used as a vehicle for consultation
- if they wish to allow any rooms at the Town Hall or Corn Exchange to be used for a public meeting.

## **Implications & Risks**

### **Financial and Resource Implications**

At this time officers will only be aware of a cost to the Council should they allow a free hire for either the Town Hall or Corn Exchange.

### **Legal Implications and Legislative Powers**

The project comes under a variety of powers the Town Council has including the Highways Act 1980, ss47,116 which gives the Town Council the power to provide street furniture.

### **Environmental Implications**

Officers are not aware of any environmental implications associated with the decision to consult.

### **Risk Assessment**

Officers are not aware of any risk implication in undertaking this consultation exercise.

### **Crime and Disorder**

Officers are not aware of any issues the Council should consider under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder act 1998.

## **6. REPORT FOR DECISION – REQUEST FOR INCREASED CCTV REVENUE FUNDING**

### **Recommendation**

That the committee considers a request from the Devizes Development Partnership for increased revenue funding to support the position of CCTV Manager

### **Purpose of the Report**

To decide a response to the request for additional funding from the Devizes Development Partnership.

### **Background**

A request has been received from the Devizes Development Partnership (doc 6/1) for increased revenue funding to help support the position of the CCTV Manager.

The letter sets out the circumstances surrounding the request and details the reasons for the requirements.

### **Options Considered**

The Committee can agree to support the request for 2008/09, however the increased funding will need to be drawn from the General Reserve.

The Committee can agree to support the request from 2009/10 when it can be budgeted for.

The Committee can reject the request.

If it is decided to agree support, the Committee needs to decide for what period of time the increased funding will be made.

### **Implications & Risks**

#### **Financial and Resource Implications**

There is no budget for this additional funding and, therefore, any increase will need to be drawn from the General Reserve.

#### **Legal Implications and Legislative Powers**

The Local Government and Rating Act 1997 s31 provides for Local Councils to support crime prevention measures

#### **Environmental Implications**

Officers are not aware of environmental implications.

#### **Risk Assessment**

If the Council do not support the request, the CCTV scheme may be less viable and effective.

#### **Crime and Disorder**

A reduction in the effectiveness of the CCTV scheme may have implications on crime and disorder in the town.

### **7. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS PAID**

A Schedule of Accounts Paid is attached for information (doc 7/1 – doc 7/2).

### **8. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – VENUES CLEANER**

Following the committees consent for officers to recruit to the vacant position of Venues Cleaner Mr Tony Kelly has been appointed to the post.

Mr Kelly has experience of cleaning routines and methods and will be a valuable addition to the venues team.

### **9. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – DEVIZES DVD**

Devizes Town Council allocated a sum of £2000 for this project and agreed that officers could make an application to Kennet District Council's capital grants programme for additional funding.

After discussions with the Grants Officer it was agreed that the project did not meet the criteria for a capital grant, however, an application for a minor grant was made.

This application has been successful and Kennet District Council has awarded a grant of £5000 towards the project.

Although this was not the full amount anticipated through the capital programme (£7000), officers have met with the other partners in the project and can confirm that the project is still viable.

The other partners are James Harrison, local filmmaker and Lorna Haycock, historian.

A schedule of production has been established with filming taking place during the summer. It is anticipated that it will be launched in early December.

**10. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – INCIDENT IN VICTORIA ROAD**

Following the knife incident on Friday 27 June 2008 where a man was killed in Victoria Road flats Devizes, Councillor Parsons attended a briefing meeting on Tuesday 1 July at Police HQ.

The police explained their actions and assured those present that they are not looking for any other persons other than the man that is in custody at present.

They assured those attending the briefing that they have raised the Police profile by increasing patrols in Devizes until after the weekend. In addition, Sarsen Housing Association, along with the Police are calling door to door in the area to assure the residents that everything is under control.

Further reports will be issued by Kennet District Council in due course.

**11. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – FORWARD PLANNING SESSIONS**

Unfortunately due to the workload in the first half of the year, it has been impractical to undertake the programme of Member Forward Planning Sessions as anticipated.

As the summer months are shortly upon us, it is intended to resume the Forward Planning Sessions in the autumn, commencing on 16 September when it is anticipated that a first review of 2009/10 estimates can be undertaken.

At that session, members can also agree a new programme of subjects for future sessions.

**12. REPORT FOR DECISION – TOWN CRIER**

**Recommendation**

To agree the Working Party's recommendation with regard to the reintroduction of a Town Crier for Devizes to provide joint funding with the Chamber of Commerce.

**Purpose of the Report**

To agree to support the reintroduction of the active role of Town Crier.

### **Background**

The role of Town Crier in Devizes has traditionally been combined with that of the Mayor's Officer. This role has fallen into abeyance, but recently a the Council received a proposal from the Chamber of Commerce to reintroduce the role. The Council responded by forming a small Working Party to include representation from the Chamber of Commerce and the DDP.

Prior to the Working Party meeting, officers were requested to explore the possibility of the current Mayor's Officer taking on the role. This was done and Mr Marcus Hopgood, the Mayor's Officer indicated that he would be interested in undertaking the enhanced role.

The Working Party welcomed Mr Hopgood's expression of interest and considered the scope of the role. It was agreed that Mr Hopgood would be formally asked to take on the role and that it be proposed that he announces local news on 10 Thursday's during the year, to coincide with major Devizes' events.

It was proposed that funding be split between the Town Council and the Chamber of Commerce with each partner providing £150 funding. The Chamber of Commerce are considering this matter separately.

Mr Hopgood has agreed that the terms are acceptable.

### **Options Considered**

The committee are asked to agree that role of Town Crier be supported a part of the role of Mayor's Officer

That the committee agree funding of £150 for joint funding of the role.

That the uniform be the Mayor's Officer uniform

That the Mayor's Officer can undertake private engagements independently negotiated, in line with other Town Criers from local towns.

### **Implications & Risks**

#### **Financial and Resource Implications**

There is a financial implication of £150 per annum, plus some limited administrative support. The role may enhance the town and, therefore, have an impact on the economic vibrancy of Devizes.

#### **Legal Implications and Legislative Powers**

Officers are not aware of any legal implications

#### **Environmental Implications**

Officers are not aware of any environmental implications.

#### **Risk Assessment**

There are no obvious risks associated with this decision

**Crime and Disorder**

Officers are not aware of any issues the Council should consider under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder act 1998.

**13. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – DEVIZES LITTER CAMPAIGN**

The Devizes Against Litter Group, which is an offshoot of the Devizes Community area Planning Partnership have been working with various stakeholders in an attempt to reduce litter in the town.

As part of the initiative, British Waterways have agreed to organise a litter pick on 12 July from the top lock at Caen Hill to All Cannings car park, if members wish to join Councillors Taylor and East on their litter pick, Councillor East will be happy to pass on any information.

The Wiltshire Wildlife Trust have been visiting local schools to discuss the problems of litter and are running a competition with each of the schools to design a poster which will identify different problems with litter.

Under the direction of the Devizes Community Area Planning Partnership's Chairman, Roger Chadwick, Solicitors Awdry Bailey and Douglas and Wansbrough are planning to undertake there own litter pick.

**14. REPORT FOR DECISION – MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF WILTSHIRE PRIMARY CARE TRUST (PCT) RE THE LOCATION OF THE PRIMARY CARE CENTRE IN DEVIZES**

**Recommendation**

To agree how to progress the Town Council's position with regard to the Wiltshire PCT and the location of the proposed Primary Care Centre in Devizes.

**Purpose of the Report**

To agree the mechanism for progressing the Town Council's position with regard to the Wiltshire PCT and the location of the proposed Primary Care Centre in Devizes.

**Background**

At a meeting of the Council on 20 March 2008 Councillor Mrs Winchcombe asked if a member of the PCT could be invited to a future meeting in order to give the Council and update on proceedings.

Following this meeting officers have contacted the PCT on several occasions to seeking agreement that a member would attend, to no avail and there are a number of dated emails to support this.

At a meeting of the Planning Committee 24 June 2008, this issue was raised in question time because of the PCT had that day had decided to defer the decision with regard to the location of the proposed Primary Care Centre in Devizes.

At that meeting members expressed a wish that the matter should be brought to a meeting of the Full Council as a matter of urgency, however, the appropriate route for this decision is through the Community and Civic Resources Committee. The Community and Civic Resources Committee can, of course, refer the matter to the full Council.

The Town Mayor, Councillor Mrs Burton has reported that she has taken the opportunity to speak with Mr Tony Barron, the Chairman of the PCT with a view to him attending a meeting when a decision has been reached with regard to the location.

#### **Options Considered**

The Committee can decide whether to consider this matter themselves or refer the matter to full Council.

The Committee also needs to decide when they wish a member of the PCT to attend and who they would wish this to be.

#### **Implications & Risks**

##### **Financial and Resource Implications**

Officers are not aware of any financial or resource implications.

##### **Legal Implications and Legislative Powers**

Officers are not aware of any legal implications.

##### **Environmental Implications**

Officers are not aware of any environmental implications.

##### **Risk Assessment**

There are no obvious risks associated with this decision

##### **Crime and Disorder**

Officers are not aware of any issues the Council should consider under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder act 1998.

#### **15. REPORT FOR DECISION – SAFEGUARD AIRSPACE SALISBURY PLAIN**

##### **Recommendation**

That the committee decides if it wishes to comment on the proposal made by the Ministry of Defence to establish a safeguard air space to the south of the current Salisbury Plain Danger Area.

##### **Purpose of the Report**

Devizes has been identified as a stakeholder and therefore has been consulted on the proposals.

##### **Background**

The proposal is to create a new airspace bound between Warminster, Andover, Stockbridge and Shaftesbury and is bounded by the existing danger zone on the plain.

This air space has been designed for unmanned aircraft operation and during these periods of operation there will be a general exclusion for other aircraft within the airspace.

From the consultation document (which can be accessed via [http://www.qinetiq.com/home\\_salisbury\\_uav.html](http://www.qinetiq.com/home_salisbury_uav.html)) it is envisaged that all air traffic routed around the airspace will head south and away for Devizes. However, should this not be the case and the traffic be diverted north, then we could see a significant increase in air traffic above Devizes during operations.

### **Options Considered**

The committee needs to decide if they wish to comment on the consultation.

### **Implications & Risks**

#### **Financial and Resource Implications**

Officers are not aware of any financial implications associated with this decision.

#### **Legal Implications and Legislative Powers**

The Town Council is purely a consultee on this occasion.

#### **Environmental Implications**

Any environmental considerations are the responsibility of the MOD.

#### **Risk Assessment**

Officers are not aware of any financial implications associated with this decision.

#### **Crime and Disorder**

Officers are not aware of any issues the Council should consider under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder act 1998.

## **16. REPORT FOR DECISION – YOUTH FORUM – BAG STRIKE INITIATIVE**

### **Recommendation**

That this Council supports an initiative proposed by Devizes Youth Forum to encourage residents of Devizes to reduce the number of plastic bags they use. In addition, that this committee supports the Youth Forum by allowing them free use of a room at the Town Hall for an art exhibition, some officer time to investigate grant funding for their project and should it be necessary that they will consider a small financial grant at a future meeting.

### **Purpose of the Report**

To determine if this Council will support the Devizes Youth Forum's initiative to reduce the number of plastic carrier bags used in Devizes

### **Background**

Devizes Youth Forum comprises of two year five and six pupil representatives from each of the primary schools in Devizes and from the surrounding area. The purpose of the forum is to give children of primary school age a voice on local matters, which are of concern to them.

This year the forum have agreed that they are concerned about the steadily growing number of plastic carrier bags which are being dispensed by retailers and are hoping to launch a campaign to reverse the trend.

Attached to this agenda is an action plan compiled by the young people at their meeting on the 24 June 2008.

In summary the initiative will involve a bag amnesty where bags can be brought into schools. This collection will be used as a base line to monitor any improvements.

In the autumn there will be a bag strike when residents will be asked to refrain from taking a plastic shopping bag when they shop but rather use a bag for life or an even better shopping bag. To encourage this the forum will be mounting a publicity campaign including posters and direct action by taking a stall in the Market Place and trying to ask people to sign a pledge not to use plastic bags during the strike.

In addition the forum are investigating the possibility of producing their own environmental friendly bags, which can be bought by people as an alternative.

In the spring of 2009 there will be a second amnesty to see if there has been a reduction in the number of plastic shopping bags in circulation.

In order that these bags do not go to waste, the forum is hoping to run an art competition where the bags collected can be made into pieces of art and this will culminate in an exhibition that they would like to hold in the Town Hall.

From initial discussions officers have had with Kennet District Council, they have indicated that they are prepared to support this initiative.

### **Options Considered**

The Committee needs to decide if they support the initiative proposed by Devizes Youth Forum to encourage residents of Devizes to reduce the number of plastic bags they use and if so

- will this committee support the Youth Forum by allowing them free use of a room at the Town Hall for an art exhibition
- allow some officer time to investigate grant funding for their project
- should it be necessary that they will consider a small financial grant at a future meeting.

## **Implications & Risks**

### **Financial and Resource Implications**

Any free use of the building would come from the Council grace and favour budget. Officer time would need to be built into standard working hours.

### **Legal Implications and Legislative Powers**

Support for this project would be given under Local Government act 1972 section 137 which states that a local authority may incur expenditure which in their opinion is in the interest of or will directly benefit all or some of its inhabitants.

### **Environmental Implications**

It is clear that that this initiative has a strong environmental bias, which should have a positive impact on the town.

### **Risk Assessment**

Officers are not aware of any risk associated with this decision.

### **Crime and Disorder**

Officers are not aware of any issues the Council should consider under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder act 1998.

## **17. REPORT FOR DECISION – LIGHTING ON THE GREEN**

### **Recommendation**

That the committee accepts the working party recommendation and explores the principle of installing lighting from the school gate to the pedestrian crossing on Southbroom Road.

### **Purpose of the Report**

To determine if this Council wishes to provide lighting on the Green.

### **Background**

For many years the Council has discussed the issue of lighting on the Green without being able to form a consensus.

At a meeting of the Community & Civic Resources Committee in August 2007, a working party was formed to undertake a consultation about the benefits of lighting on the Green.

That consultation was undertaken in the spring edition of the Messenger and was reviewed by the working party.

The working party considered the consultation and noted that there was a general view that responders were generally not in favour of lighting on the Green.

The working party recognised that there is a need for people to feel safe but this does not necessarily mean that the whole area should be lit.

It was noted that Kennet were currently progressing a scheme to light from the school gates to the Leisure Centre this will give a safe lit route. Kennet have a view that they are not going to light the whole of the perimeter road but rather a single route.

The committee recommend that the Town Council should take a similar approach and explore the practicalities and benefits of creating a lit route from the end of the Kennet scheme back to the crossing on Southbroom Road.

#### **Options Considered**

The Committee needs to decide if they accept the working parties recommendation.

If it does it needs to decide if the project is passed over to the Recreation and Properties committee for implementation.

#### **Implications & Risks**

##### **Financial and Resource Implications**

No budget provision has been made in respect of the project, and therefore if the Committee decided to pursue lighting on the Green a budget allocation will need to be made in the 2009/10 estimates. In addition there will be an ongoing revenue commitment to run these lights as they are on private land.

##### **Legal Implications and Legislative Powers**

Under the Highway act 1980 section 301 the Council has the power to light roads and public places.

##### **Environmental Implications**

A lighting scheme will have an environmental impact in terms of light pollution and energy usage.

##### **Risk Assessment**

The design and location of the lamp columns will need to be given careful consideration to minimise the risk of damage by vehicle movements on the Green.

##### **Crime and Disorder**

In considering the installation of lighting the Council needs to consider its responsibilities under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder act 1998 and decide if there is a genuine threat of crime and disorder in this area and if the installation of lighting will either increase or decrease that risk.

**18. QUESTION TIME**

Members will be allowed a short period in which to put questions on matters within the remit of this Committee which are not contained in the reports of matters formally considered by the Committee at this meeting. The question may be answered at the meeting or may be referred back to the Committee at a later date. The question may not be the subject of any further details.

TOWN CLERK