



RECREATION AND PROPERTIES **COMMITTEE**

You are summonsed to attend a meeting of the Recreation & Properties Committee at the following, place and date.

Date: 12 May 2009

Time: Immediately following the Planning Committee Meeting

Venue: Council Chamber, Town Hall, Devizes

Enquiries: 01380 722160

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

Councillors: Beinhorn Callow Mrs S Evans
Gudgeon Leighton Smith
A R Taylor C S Winchcombe

AGENDA

1. MINUTES

To approve as a correct record and authorise the Chairman to sign the minutes of the special meeting held on the 14 April 2009, which have been circulated with the agenda.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. DISCLOSURES 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 INFORMATION – VENUES INCOME FIGURES

Income figures for the Council's venues for the period April 2008 to April 2009 are attached (doc 5/1-5/3). These figures indicate the monthly income and cumulative income against budget

6. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – VENUES – CUSTOMER SATISFACTION FEEDBACK

Attached to this agenda (doc 6/1) is the Venues Customer Feedback information received up to the end of April 2009.

7. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – COUNCIL CHAMBER CEILING

The Council Chamber ceiling is to be redecorated after the installation of a new hearing loop system. Quotations are being considered.

8. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – OLDER CHILDING USING THE PLAY AREA ON THE GREEN

Following a meeting with the Headteacher of Devizes School, a visit was made to the Play Area. The Headteacher took pictures of the playground and used these in an assembly presentation to each year group at the school. A copy of the presentation has been sent to the Direct Service Manager and includes a reference to the school code of RESPECT. This code has also been incorporated into a notice, which is to be put up on the play area itself.

The local community police officer is aware of the situation and is monitoring it as far as he is able.

9. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – THE OLD LOCK UP

Background

The removal of the old oil tank was completed in late 2008. Since this time a fire door encased in tongue and groove to make it in keeping with it's situation has been fitted between the lock up and the boiler room.

Current Status

An officer of the Wiltshire Fire Authority recently inspected the Old Lock Up at the Town Hall. Whilst the new fire door between the lock up and the boiler room was considered acceptable, concern was expressed at the main door to the lock up and the stairs. Officers will make contact with a member of the HSE to ensure compliance.

Additional works required to complete the project are as follows: -

- Appropriate lighting
- Rope support on stairs
- Additional works on stairs
- Additional works on door
- Manikin - prisoner
- Manikin - constable
- Furniture
- Door furniture on fire door

Detailed costings will be submitted to a meeting of the Recreation & Properties Committee once discussions with the HSE have taken place.

Once completed it is envisaged that the Lock Up may be used for a multitude of uses including part of the Ghost Walk, visits by school parties, Museum visits, film sets, etc.

10. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – REDECORATION OF TOWN HALL VESTIBULE

The water damage to the walls and ceiling of the Vestibule has been repaired and the walls re-painted.

11. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – CRAMMER REPAIRS

Work on the Town Council's element of the Crammer wall has been completed and within the agreed time scale.

Officers had been concerned that once the water had been removed and the silt exposed, faults in the wall under line would be exposed increasing the cost of the work. Fortunately, no significant additional defects were discovered and therefore the cost of the work was less than budget.

The contractor used for the work was Rocket Masonry, based in Bradford on Avon, and officers are pleased with the quality of the work.

Devizes firm, Mark Lovell Design Engineers advised the Council on various aspects of the project, which should ensure that the repairs will last for years to come.

Once the final costs for the works have been received, officers will bring a report back to the committee for a decision on what and how they want to deal with the under spend.

At this time there is no indication for St James' Church when their element of the wall will be completed or how the work will be undertaken.

12. REPORT FOR DECISION – HILLWORTH PARK PROPOSALS AND HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND BID

Recommendation

To note the progress of the Heritage Lottery Fund Parks for People bid and to agree the vision for Hillworth Park.

Purpose of the Report

To note the progress of the Heritage Lottery Fund Parks for People bid and to agree the vision for Hillworth Park.

Background

The Hillworth Park proposals have now been developed to planning submission stage and have been the subject of an extensive round of consultation including special interest groups.

The plans have been modified and developed as a result of these consultations, most notably to include a 'changing places' standard disabled toilet facility. This incorporates a changing facility for adults and will allow the park to have greater accessibility for disabled groups.

The Hillworth Park Working Party have met to look at the detail of the proposals and issues raised – particularly in relation to the appropriate use of the park will be incorporated into the bid proposals and Audience Development Plan.

As part of the required 10 Year Management and Maintenance Plan, the Council needs to explicitly capture its vision for Hillworth Park. Officers have developed a form of words based on the Stage 1 submission.

The Stage 2 submission deadline is June 2009 although it is unclear at this time exactly what date.

Options Considered

It is recommended that the Committee on behalf of the Council adopt the following vision:

'Our vision is to restore, conserve and enhance Hillworth Park as public open space for the social, recreational, heritage, educational and environmental benefit of all members of the community'.

Implications & Risks

Financial and Resource Implications

There are major financial and resource implications in the submission of the Heritage Lottery bid which have been costed and provided for within budgets.

Legal Implications and Legislative Powers

Provision for providing and managing recreation grounds, public walks, pleasure grounds and open spaces is found in the s. 87 of the Public Health Act 1875, Local Government Act 1972 schedule 14 and the Open Spaces Act 1906 ss9 & 10.

Environmental Implications

The proposals take account of environmental considerations and the appropriate environment and ecological reports have been undertaken.

Risk Assessment

Failure to endorse the vision for the park could compromise the Heritage Lottery Fund bid.

Crime and Disorder

The proposals take account of issues under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder act 1998 and have implemented advice received from the Police Architect Liaison Officer.

13. REPORT FOR DECISION – PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT INDICATORS

Recommendation

That this committee agrees the performance indicators for 2009/2010 in relation to the adopted Performance Management Strategy for the Recreation and Property Committee.

Purpose of the Report

To consider the newly adopted performance indicators and set targets for the forthcoming year.

Background

Attached doc 13/1 are the adopted performance indicators relating to issues within this committees remit. These performance indicators were adopted, along with the Performance Management Strategy, at Full Council on the 20 March 2008.

The results for the 2008/09 financial year will be present at the next committee of this committee, which will include year-end data.

Options Considered

The committee needs to decide if they agree to the suggested targets.

Implications & Risks

Financial and Resource Implications

The adopted Performance Management Strategy and supporting policies do have some resource implications but this is certainly less onerous than the former Best Value Plan that had to be reproduced each year and audited.

Legal Implications and Legislative Powers

The abolishment of the Best Value regime for this council removes any legal obligation in relation to performance management.

Environmental Implications

The Environmental Policy forms an underpinning for the proposed Performance Management Strategy.

Risk Assessment

Maintaining Quality Council status has been identified as being core for pursuing grant funding for community projects and the adopted Performance Management Strategy fundamentally underpins this.

Crime and Disorder

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

14. REPORT FOR DECISION – SKATE PARK REQUEST

Recommendation

That the Committee considers a request by young people who are petitioning for a skate park in Devizes.

Purpose of the Report

To instruct officers on how they wish to respond to a petition presented to Councillor Parsons for the provision of skate park facilities.

Background

Councillor Parsons has asked that the Recreation and Properties Committee consider a petition presented to him by Tobin Weller.

The petition containing 104 names, predominately from young people who attend Devizes School asking that a skate park facility is provided in Devizes.

For the committees' information officers have undertaken an analysis of the addresses given and it breakdowns as follows.

Devizes Parish	43
Roundway	28
Seend	5
Outside Area	3
Rowde	3
Melksham	2
Chirton	2
Potterne	2
All Cannings	2
Poulshot	1
Coate	1

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Etchelhampton	1
Market Lavington	1
no address or only School address given	10
Total	104

The committee will recall that in 2002 following a court order the Town Council's skate park equipment had to be removed as it was deemed to cause a noise nuisance. Despite engaging the services of an acoustic expert it was found that the Council did not own a site that would not leave the Council open to another challenge for noise nuisance or be visually acceptable.

The Council was approached again in 2005 and at that time it managed to find an alternative option, which was the provision of a mobile skate facility, lead by North Wiltshire District Council. Although the times the equipment was in Devizes gave ample opportunity for the facility to be widely available it was underutilised therefore after only a few sessions the scheme was abandoned.

The equipment, which did belong to the Council, has now been passed to Rowde Parish Council and there are currently no plans in place to install a new permanent facility within the town.

Options Considered

The committee needs to decide how they wish to respond to this consultation.

Implications & Risks

Financial and Resource Implications

Currently the Council has no financial resources to install a new skate park facility.

Legal Implications and Legislative Powers

Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 give the Town Council ancillary powers to consider matters, which are supplementary to its main duties and powers.

Environmental Implications

The installation of a skate park may have significant local environmental implication for the area immediately adjacent the facility.

Risk Assessment

The Council has already had a legal judgment against them for the inappropriate placing of skate park equipment therefore full assessment needs to be undertaken for any site which may be considered acceptable.

Crime and Disorder

In considering a site, the Council will need to be mindful of its responsibility under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder act 1998

15. **EXEMPT REPORT FOR DECISION – RELATING TO COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES**
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18. **EXEMPT REPORT FOR DECISION – RELATING TO COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES**
19. **EXEMPT REPORT FOR DECISION – RELATING TO VENUES BAR FRANCHISE**
20. **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.