

Amenities, Leisure and Community Services
Tuesday 17th January 2017
Sutton Coldfield Town Hall
7pm

Present:

Cllrs Bennett, Cairns, Griffin, Hewett, Mosson, Passey & K Ward.

In Attendance:

Olive O'Sullivan – Acting Town Clerk, Natalia Gorman – Admin Assistant. Cllrs Horrocks, Long, Pocock and Wood as non-voting observers.

There were thirteen members of the public and no press present.

The Chairman welcomed those present and invited questions from the public. A representative of Park Court Residents Association objected to any installation of play equipment in front of Park Court flats.

Rebecca Clarke expressed concern that there is currently no pedestrian crossing leading to Boldmere Gate and a play area should be within the heart of the high street that is easily accessible and would benefit the community.

Lynette Richards & Mandy O'Reilly, spoke of the high anti-social behaviour and parking issues at Mossy Bank and objected to a play area in this area.

Ray Beech from the Boldmere Neighbourhood Forum asked the Town Council to liaise with West Midlands Police about anti-social behaviour in Boldmere and to push for CCTV cameras that will be funded by Police to be installed.

Terry Johnson, Four Oaks Neighbourhood Forum advised Committee that they would be interested in working with Town Council to identify the area to install a defibrillator in the ward. Stuart Clarke asked Committee to clarify what areas in Royal Sutton Coldfield already have defibrillators.

55 Apologies for Absence

The Clerk received apologies from Cllr Ellis.

Resolved: To accept the apologies received.

56 Declarations of Interest

None to report

57 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of Amenities, Leisure and Community Services held on Tuesday 20th December 2016 (previously circulated) be signed as a true record of the meeting.

58 Matter Arising

The Acting Town Clerk advised Committee Members that she had received a letter and a petition containing 39 signatures from the Park Court Residents Association objecting to a play area in front on Park Court flats.

Resolved: To note the update from the Town Clerk.

59 Boldmere Play Area

The Acting Town Clerk addressed some of the concerns raised during public question time. Confirming that full consultation will take place with residents, as part of the feasibility study on any new play area.

The Chairman welcomed Bob Churn, Birmingham City appraisal of the two sites put forward by committee. His report considered accessibility of the sites, planning restrictions, statutory designations, health & safety, current land use and local known issues. Technical design or comparative costs were not investigated at this stage.

Firstly, Mr Churn advised Committee on the advantages and disadvantages of a play area at the site by Boldmere Gate, Sutton Park. Advantages included easy access via Stonehouse Road with an adjacent carpark, sufficient room for construction work, it would suit a variety of play area types i.e. adventure play and would provide an additional attraction to Sutton Park, within a one mile walking distance of Boldmere High Street. Disadvantages highlighted in the report suggest that a pedestrian crossing with traffic lights may need to be installed at the junction of Stonehouse Road and Monmouth Drive, approval would be required by Natural England, the site may require an archaeological investigation and would attract visitors from other areas rather than being a local community facility.

Secondly, Mr Churn advised Committee on the advantages and disadvantages of Mossy Bank. Advantages highlighted included the area is within walking distance of the main residential areas of Boldmere, the site would suit both a traditional play area with elements of natural play and there are no statutory restrictions associated with this area other than planning permission. Disadvantages included no parking, access to the site is on a bend which could be a hazard for children playing, the area is partially out of view from the road and properties back onto public open space so there is an increased risk of vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

Initial assessments of the proposed locations for a new play area in Vesey Ward are attached.

Cllr Griffin asked Bob to clarify costs and what equipment would be provided for the costs set out in the report. Bob advised a standard junior play area with five pieces of equipment including swings, slide and climbing frame with a security fence would cost approximately £110,000 which would suit the Mossy bank area. A more adventurous park over a larger space would cost between £250,000 - £300,000.

Cllr Cairns asked Bob if public consultation was carried out when carrying out a feasibility study. Mr Churn advised that no formal consultation has taken place with residents as this would be done when LPG have a better understanding of the preferred site during the feasibility stage.

Cllr Ward asked about inspection and maintenance costs. Bob advised these would be approx. £3,000-£4,000 per year which would include a daily check of equipment and sweeping the area, however cost is based on area size and a larger site would be more expensive to maintain.

Cllr Pocock suggested that the Town Council should liaise with Boldmere Future Partnership to discuss what Boldmere residents would like to see in the area and advised committee that the Partnership would be holding a community planning day to discuss play, amenities, open space, land use etc.

Cllr Horrocks agreed that a consultation with local residents should be at the core of this project but should be led by the Town Council to avoid any bias amongst resident/community groups and confirmed that no formal consultation has taken place as LPG were only asked to provide an initial appraisal of the two sites to identify if they were viable options for a new play area facility.

Cllr Ward advised Committee that Vesey Ward has a lack of play facilities and that the Mossy bank proposal could be met from the Town Council budget currently available.

Mr Churn was asked to clarify what methods are used to consult with residents and the time frame LPG would work to. Bob recommended that LPG would consult with local residents, schools and community groups. If a site was agreed and detailed designs would then be drawn up and residents would be consulted further about on the detail of any proposed scheme. Providing there was no planning objections Bob advised the scheme for a standard junior play area would take approx. 7 months. If a decision was reached that Boldmere Gate was the preferred option, a traffic study along with traffic data and research would need to be carried out therefore delaying the implementation period.

Cllr Ward proposed that Full Council be recommended to commission Landscape Practice Group to carry out a full feasibility study on Mossy bank for £5,000 funded from 2016/17 six pillar budget and that subject to the outcome of the study, that Full Council be recommended to approve that the remaining £95k budget for be allocated to the installation of a play area in Mossy Bank. Cllr Passey seconded this motion.

Cllr Hewett proposed the following amendment to this proposal. That Birmingham City Council Landscape Practice Group be commissioned to carry out further consultations on the two sites, Boldmere Gate and Mossy Bank with local residents and community groups on the two sites prior to a feasibility study being carried out in order to determine residents preferred location for the play area.

Cllr Long asked for a named vote on the recommendations to be recorded.

Councillor	In favour: Recommendation to carry out consultations with residents on two locations, Boldmere Gate & Mossy Bank	Against : Recommendation to carry out consultations with residents on two locations, Boldmere Gate & Mossy Bank
Bennett	X	
Cairns	X	
Hewett	X	
Mosson	X	

Passey		X
K Ward		X

Resolved: that Full Council be recommended to approve that Birmingham City Council Landscape Practice Group be commissioned to carry out consultations on the two sites, Boldmere Gate and Mossy Bank and that subject to the outcome of the consultation period, a full feasibility study be carried out on the preferred location.

Cllr Griffin thanked Mr Churn for his input.

The chairman requested a comfort break for Councillors & Officers at 8.45pm.

Cllr Griffin proposed, that in accordance with Standing Orders the meeting be extended up to a period of one hour from 8.45pm.

Resolved That the meeting be extended for further hour.

Meeting resumed at 9.00pm.

60 Defibrillators

The Town Clerk expressed concern around governance and legal ownership of defibrillators and suggested to Committee that the Town Council commissions a charitable organisation with the necessary expertise in the delivery of community defibrillation projects.

The Town Clerk advised Committee that the Community Heartbeat Trust are accredited by the local and neighbouring ambulance services and could provide a managed solution which would include sourcing the most appropriate equipment and overseeing the future maintenance. To install an externally mounted defibrillator in an unlocked cabinet would cost £1675. To install a defibrillator in a locked cabinet would cost £1995. This cost would also include community training on how to use this piece of equipment in the event of an emergency and counselling.

Resolved: That Town Council be recommended to approve that the Community Heartbeat Trust be commissioned to deliver a community defibrillator project from the funding allocated in the Six Pillars.

61 Great British Spring Clean

The Town Clerk provided a brief update on what Keep Britain Tidy offer as part of the campaign. Cllr Hewett suggested involving local community forums and scouts/girl guides.

Resolved: that Full Council be recommend to approve that the Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council registered with Keep Britain Tidy and take part in the Great British Spring Clean held in March.

62 Community Fund

The committee noted that Council had allocated £100,000, in the current financial year for local groups who want to make Royal Sutton Coldfield an even better place to live and work. £25,000 had been approved for allocation in each of the four Sutton Coldfield wards.

The committee received details of five applications and assessed these against the Councils' aims and objectives of:

- Supporting the health and wellbeing of the local community
- Creating a socially inclusive and caring community
- Protecting and improving the environment of the Town
- Supporting and contributing to the economic, culture and leisure life of the Town
- Preserving and promoting the unique identity and heritage of Royal Sutton Coldfield

The committee agreed that the following recommendations should be made to Full Council:

Vesey Ward

Organisation	Status	Project Summary	Amount (£)	Recommendation
Boldmere Junior School	Birmingham Local Authority School	Boldmere Junior School applying for funding on behalf of 5 other schools in the Vesey Ward who are looking to work together as a cluster to implement "School Keep Clear Campaign" The aim of this campaign is to educate drivers about road safety issues and encourage active or sustainable travel to school. Funding will be used to purchase six education campaign boxes.	£4,309.42 for six parking boxes	Refer to Planning and Highways committee for funding from the Safer Zones budget
				Protecting and improving the environment of the Town.

Grants Deferred From 20th December 2016

Organisation	Project	Amount	Decision
Four Oaks Toy Library	Relocation and hire costs of new premises for toy library.	£5,000 Four Oaks Ward	Defer
Birmingham Tress for Life	Tree planting projects at Jones Wood & New Hall Valley Country Park	£1,000 New Hall	Recommend to Approve
The Gap	Youth Workers Salary	£2,040 funded from New Hall Ward	Recommend to Approve
YMCA	Triple A project	£8,000 Trinity Ward	Recommend to Approve - £8,000 from 2016/17 community grant budget. A further £8,000 will be



			considered from the 2017/18 budget subject to the successful delivery of the project in the first six months.
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The Committee Recommends that the Council should **RESOLVE**, in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the LGA 1972, to incur the expenditure set out above. In the opinion of the Council, this expenditure is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner that is commensurate with the expenditure.

Meeting Closed 9:28pm

Signed as a correct record

Signed.....
Cllr D Griffin

Date.....