

Amenities, Leisure and Community Services
Tuesday 9th May 2017
Sutton Coldfield Trinity Centre
7pm

Present:

Cllrs Bennett, Cairns, Ellis, Griffin (Chairman), Hewett, Mosson, Passey & K Ward.

In Attendance:

Olive O'Sullivan – Acting Town Clerk, Natalia Gorman – Admin Assistant. Cllrs Allan, Hodivala, Horrocks, Mackey, Pocock, S. Ward & Wood as non-voting observers.

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

The Chairman welcomed those present and invited questions from the public. No members of the public wished to speak during this time.

74 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies to report.

75 Declarations of Interest

None to report.

76 Minutes of the Last Meeting

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of Amenities, Leisure and Community Services held on Tuesday 14th March 2017 (previously circulated) be signed as a true record of the meeting.

77 Matters Arising

None to report.

78 Consultation on new play area for Boldmere

The chairman asked Acting Town Clerk to report on the finding of the Boldmere play area location consultation and questionnaire exercise.

The Acting Town Clerk began by thanking Birmingham City Council Landscape Practice Group (LPG), in particular Iggy Smith, who conducted a thorough consultation exercise and produced a comprehensive report.

The Town Clerk advised Committee that the consultation consisted of:-

1. A web page – as part of the Town Council’s website.
2. 2525 questionnaires hand delivered to local residents
3. An information event, held on Saturday 18th March

The findings of the exercise are as follows:

- 531 responses were received,
- Boldmere Gate was the preferred favourite site for a new play area with 340 votes,
- Mosey Bank received 128 votes,
- there were 50 votes with no preference and 13 for others.

The report indicated that if Boldmere Gate were selected as the site for a new play area, it should be designed in such a way that allowed for a phased delivery as the budget currently available would be insufficient to provide a play area of the size that would be required at this location. A long term masterplan would need to be drawn up to design a play area with equipment for different age groups, as well as improving the existing infrastructure, carparking and toilet facilities etc. Such a project would cost upwards of £500,000.

The Acting Town Clerk reported that investing in Sutton Park is a key priority in the Town Council’s strategic plan and that such a project should be considered alongside the priorities in the Strategic Plan for 2017/18.

Cllr K Ward proposed a motion which all Councillors voted in favour of.

Resolved that this committee notes the consultation report and would like to put on record it’s thanks to residents for their value input. The committee recognises that the Town Council will no longer be progressing its initial proposal for Mossy Bank. We further note that there are no currently suitable sites for a local park in Boldmere. The committee also notes the views of residents around the potential for destination play provision in Sutton Park and for this to be considered as part of the current Strategic Plan that the Council is currently consulting on. As part of the Plan this committee will also be reviewing how the Town Council can best input into improving local play areas across the Town.

79 Community Fund

The committee noted that Council had been 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. Any approved projects that exceed the £25,000 budget per ward will be taken from that wards 2017/18 budget.

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:

All Wards

Organisation	Status	Project Summary	Amount Requested	Recommendation
1 st Sutton Coldfield Sea Scouts	Registered Charity/ Voluntary Organisation	The 1 st Sutton Coldfield Sea Scouts are seeking funding towards the purchase of new, much needed group marquee tent. The Groups existing marquee, used at camps and other events, is in need of replacement after many years of use. In 2016, scouts raised money towards a new marquee. A new marquee of sufficient quality and size could be available for hire to the residents of Sutton Coldfield. This in itself has the potential to generate income for the Sea Scouts and increase engagement with the local community. The 1 st Sutton Coldfield Sea Scouts are based at Boldmere Gate in Sutton Park. They provide a varied and exciting scouting programme for around 80 Sutton Coldfield children. All of the leaders are volunteers who commit long hours each year to develop children to become good citizens and equip them with life skills such as leadership, teamwork etc that will enable them for adult life. As well as land based scouting activities, children are trained in rowing, kayaking and sailing.	Four Oaks £275.00 New Hall £275.00 Trinity £275.00 Vesey £275.00 Total = £1,100.00	Approve - Supporting the health and wellbeing of the local community
Bethany Community Outreach	Registered Charity	Bethany Community Outreach are seeking funding to sustain a warehouse for food, white goods and furniture for people experiencing financial hardship. The foodbank and warehouse, based in Erdington and is open three times a week. People are referred from various agencies including statutory and voluntary organisations within Sutton Coldfield.	Four Oaks £1625.00 New Hall £1625.00 Trinity £1625.00 Vesey £1625.00 Total = £6,500.00	Rejected

Two Wards (New Hall & Trinity)

Organisation	Status	Project Summary	Amount Requested	Recommendation
Performance Birmingham Ltd	Registered Charity	In partnership with local residents, Performance Birmingham Ltd wish to further develop the 'Live in the Lodge' project in and around the Falcon Lodge neighbourhood. Funding has already been secured until June 2017 with the organisation asking if the Town Council would provide funding until September 2017. The project involves free weekly instrumental lessons in guitar, ukelele and drums, free weekly workshops for the choir, professional performances and shows and transport to take groups to concerts. The choir currently has approx. 20 participants and there are currently 20 individuals learning drums, guitar, ukulele and spoken word. The choir have been invited to perform in the foyer event at Symphony Hall in July. Live in the Lodge project was developed to bring music into the area and to raise aspirations of local residents in greater community cohesion and local pride. The specific choices about instruments and choir were developed through direct involvements of local people.	New Hall £6,000. Trinity £6,000 Total = £12,000	Approve - Supporting and contributing to the economic, culture and leisure life of the Town

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 7.31pm

Signed as a correct record

Signed.....

Date.....