

Amenities, Leisure and Community Services
Thursday 13th September 2018
Sutton Coldfield Town Hall
7pm

Present:

Cllrs Ashley-Higgins, Cummins, Ellis, Griffin, Passey, Pears, K Ward and Cooper as a non-voting observer.

In Attendance:

Olive O'Sullivan – Town Clerk, Mary Watkins – Administrative Officer, Bob Churn and Anthony Down from Birmingham City Council Landscape Practise Group.

There were no members of the public or press present.

15 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Mosson.

Resolved to note the apologies.

16 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Cummins declared a non-pecuniary interest in Sutton Music Choirs as she assists the Choir in fundraising and bid writing.

17 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of Amenities, Leisure and Community Services held on Thursday 14th June be signed as a true record of the meeting.

18 Matters Arising

The Town Clerk advised that:

- The Falcon Lodge Community Plan Conference is due to take place on the 9th October 2018.
- Following the Britain in Bloom judging on 19th July, the results will be announced on 20th September 2018.
- There would be an report on Social Inclusion brought to the next Committee meeting in November.

19 Town Gate Destination Play Area.

Anthony Down from Birmingham City Council Landscape Practice Group gave a power point presentation on the feasibility of a Destination Play Area at Town Gate. The presentation included describing common characteristics of a destination play area

with regional examples, analysis of the existing site and various options that could be explored.

Several Councillors expressed concerns around :

- the existing café/toilet facilities that would need significant refurbishment and additions to be fit for a destination play area.
- any extension of the current footprint of the play area.
- the inadequate parking at Town Gate and the effect of increased traffic on residents, particularly Park Road.
- Birmingham City Council's commercialisation agenda for Sutton Park.

Councillors referred to the Motion carried at the July Town Council meeting when Council resolved to work with Birmingham City Council on the transfer of control of Sutton Park to the Town Council and that any proposals should be considered in the wider context of a Strategic Plan for the future of the Park and the political discussions on the Town Council taking ownership and control of the Park.

In response to Councillors questions, Mr Down confirmed:

- There would be consultation with residents and user groups including parents of children with disabilities on any proposals
- That potentially the kiosk could become a custom toilet block with the hut being changed into a café.
- That in a separate initiative and not linked to any Town Council proposal for improvements to the play area at Town Gate, Birmingham City Council is exploring the possibility of creating a car park in the woodland area outside of Sutton Park, accessible via Clifton Road. This BCC initiative around car parking is in the very early stages of planning and is linked to BCC's planning for the Common Wealth Games.
- Mr Down reiterated that the Town Council's commission was to prepare a feasibility study for a destination play area, identifying what could be achieved. Phase one of the project, based on £180,000 funding, could include moving the fence line, providing one landmark piece of equipment, a multiuse swing and a trim-trail. It was agreed that Mr Down would produce a written feasibility report and an outline proposal on what could be provided within the existing footprint as a first phase to be brought to the November Meeting. Should the Committee wish then wish to proceed with phase one of the project, they would then need to commission the Landscape Practice Group to draw up a detailed proposal for consultation with residents, users and other stakeholders.

Resolved that Landscape Practice Group produce an outline design proposal for phase one improvements to the play area for consideration at the November Committee meeting.

Cllr Pears proposed that in accordance with Standing Orders the meeting be extended up to a period of one hour.

Resolved that the meeting be extended for a further hour.

20 Withy Hill Recreation Ground

Bob Churn from Birmingham City Council Landscape Practice Group (LPG) informed Committee, that having taking account of feedback from local residents in previous consultation, a revised outline proposal for Withy Hill had been produced which included a trim trail with seven pieces of equipment designed for young children. The proposal included tree planting to screen the equipment from houses and reduce the impact on residents.

Resolved to approve that LPG produce a design proposal for consultation with residents.

At 8:30pm Cllr Pears thanked Mr Down and Mr Churn for attending and short comfort break was taken.

The meeting resumed at 8:38pm.

21 Community Grant Applications

Cllr Pears informed Committee there had been a big response to the first round of Community Grants and in particular applications received for funding towards capital projects to improve sports facilities and proposed a recommendation to Full Council for additional funds to be made available to support grant applications for sport.

Resolved to recommend to Full Council that £50,000 from the general reserves be moved to the Sport Engagement budget that is within the remit of the Amenities, Leisure and Community Services Committee.

Resolved to recommend to Full Council that the Sports Engagement Commonwealth Games earmarked reserve of £10,000 be moved to a Sport Engagement budget to be administered by the Amenities, Leisure and Community Services Committee.

Applications for the devolved grant scheme were considered by a Ward Councillor Panel including Cllrs Allen, Ashley-Higgins, Cummins, Ellis, Mosson, Passey and Pears on the 6th September 2018. The Committee discussed the recommendation of the e Ward Councillor Panel and

Resolved to approve a devolved community grant of £2,500 for Sutton Coldfield Aqua Club.

Resolved to approve a devolved community grant of £519.96 for the Emmanuel Church, Wylde Green.

Resolved to approve a devolved community grant of £5,232.60 for the Harvest Fields Church Centre Ltd.

Resolved to approve a devolved community grant of £5,360 for Singing Community of Choirs.

Resolved to approve a devolved community grant of £1,428 for Harvest Fields Community Church.

Resolved to approve a devolved community grant of £6,750 for Minworth Junior and Infant School.

Committee then discussed the applications that the Ward Councillor Panel had recommended be declined.

The Smilers Club – The application was for £9,830 towards day trips, theatre trips a Christmas Party, Anniversary Party and other activities (craft workshops, pamper sessions and speakers) for a social club for older people. The Club currently has 25 members but hopes to increase its membership to around 40. Councillors thought the application was for a large sum and would only benefit a limited number of residents.

Resolved to decline a devolved community grant of £9,830 for the Smilers Club.

AAM AADMI Pravaski UK – The application was for £1,000 towards the costs of a function, to be held at a local hotel, to celebrate Diwali. Tickets for the function would cost £20 per adult and £15 per child.

Committee commended the aims of the group and advised they would welcome an application from the group for a grant supporting their core activities of education, training and promoting good race relations as opposed to an application for funding towards a function.

Resolved to decline a devolved community grant of £1,000 for AAM AADMI Pravaski.

The Committee discussed the application from the Chester Road Baptist Church and requested for financial information and information on user groups.

Resolved to defer the devolved community grant application from Chester Road Baptist Church.

The Committee agreed that the applications from the Deanery School and Sutton Coldfield Town Juniors Football Club be deferred until Full Council had considered the establishment of a Sport Engagement budget.

Resolved to defer the devolved community grant applications from Deanery Church of England School and Sutton Coldfield Town Juniors Football Club for discussion at Full Council.

Committee considered the application from You're Cherished CIC. As this service supports the Town Council aim of promoting social inclusion Committee agree the application should be considered for funding from the Central Grant Scheme.

Resolved to recommend to Full Council approval of a central grant of £10,000 for You're Cherished CIC.

Committee discussed the applications made under the Central Grant Scheme and agreed that the application from Boldmere St Michael's Football Club be deferred until Full Council had considered the establishment of a Sport Engagement Budget. The Coffee, Cake and Crafts application did not have the necessary detail and supporting documentation to support.

Resolved to recommend to Full Council approval of a central grant of £10,000 for Good Hope Hospital Charity.

Resolved to defer a central grant of £20,000 for Boldmere St Michael's Football Club for discussion at Full Council.

Resolved to recommend to Full Council approval of a central grant of £15,000 for Performance Birmingham Limited.

Resolved to decline an application for central grant funding of £20,000 for Coffee, Cakes and Crafts.

22 Festive Lights Scheme

The Town Clerk confirmed that the 2018 scheme would see the scheme enhanced and extended to other local centres. Christmas Trees would be provided in the same locations as last year and would be charged separately.

The Town Clerk advised Committee that going forward the arrangements for delivery of the Festive lights would be different. The Town Council would be able to hire the lights from any manufacturer but the installation would still need to be completed by Birmingham City Council approved contractors. This was to ensure contractor compliance and would mean that Birmingham City Council would complete all safety inspections.

Resolved to note the procurement and delivery method of festive lights as outlined in the report.

Resolved to approve that last year's scheme be rolled out at a cost of £30,970.

Resolved to approve the new locations as identified in the report at a cost of £12,580.

Resolved to recommend to Full Council approval of the proposed 2018 scheme at a cost of £60,585.

23 Strategic Plan Progress Report

Page | 5

Committee discussed the report and expressed an interest in the Town Clerk opening a dialogue with Birmingham City Council on a Town Ranger service for Sutton Coldfield.

Resolved to note the report detailing performance to date against objectives.

The next Amenities, Leisure & Community Service Committee meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday 13th November 2018 at the Town Hall.

Meeting Closed 9:17pm

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