

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WORKING GROUP MEETING – 23 AUGUST 2021

At the remote meeting of the Recreational Facilities Working Group held by video conference on Monday 23 August 2021, the following Councillors were present: -

Mrs J Leggett - Chairperson

Mr M G Callam - Ms D Coleman

Mr J H Mallen

In attendance

Mr G Ranaweera - Town Clerk and Responsible
Financial Officer

21/066. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

21/067. TINY FORESTS

Kirsty Burns introduced herself as the Environmental Co-ordinator at Broadland District Council. One of the areas she was working on in conjunction with Norfolk County Council was tree planting.

Her role is to introduce Tiny Forests to parishes in Broadland and establish which councils were interested as well as identify suitable locations.

Kirsty gave a presentation on Tiny Forrest's and rationale behind them with a view for Councillors to consider if there were any sites in Sprowston thought to be appropriate.

Emma Cross Project Officer for the Woodland Project explained the Trees Outside Woodlands Project was running various DEFRA funded trials in search of ways to increase tree cover in a cost effective and bio secure way.

Tiny Forests was aimed at urban tree establishment and the key requirements for trials is an urban or sub-urban location as defined by the local plan, and publicly accessible.

Planting areas had to be between 200 and 600sqm, of assorted designs with rabbit and deer protection divided into Miyawaki and controlled zones.

Funding was available for planting, interpretation boards, and maintenance costs for two years.

In answer to a question Kirsty advised that bio diversity of each forest would be affected by the surrounding area and impact on how quickly and what species established themselves.

21/067. TINY FORESTS (CONTINUED)

To ascertain if a site was suitable Emma advised consideration would be given to utilities, archaeological interest, land designations and if an existing valuable habitat. A site should preferably be underused grassland with connectivity to other habitats.

With reference to re-planting areas of the Broadland Northway Emma said this did not fit the Tiny Forrest's brief of community engagement, however there was another project relating to highways where it might be considered.

Mr M G Callam suggested the open space on Tills Road as a possible site.

Emma signified timing was of great importance as they hoped to plant between November and February. Funding was available for 2021/22 however she was not sure if there was an opportunity for it to be carried forward.

She asked if Council had a list of potential sites she could visit to establish suitability.

It was agreed that Councillors forward their suggestions to the Town Clerk to determine if proposed open spaces belonged to the Town Council.

21/068. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 16 JULY 2021

Minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2021 were agreed without amendment.

21/069. MATTERS ARISING

The Town Clerk reported it had been highlighted at the meeting with DCK Accounting Solutions that if Council wanted to borrow, they had to get permission from the Ministry of Local Government Community and Housing even if borrowing against CIL from Broadland District Council. He would clarify this with the District Council.

21/070. THE VIKING CENTRE ARCHITECTS PLANS

Mrs J Leggett compared the rooms sizes of the proposed plan for the Viking Centre to those of Sprowston Diamond Centre.

The Town Clerk expressed reservations about lack of storage facilities particularly if accommodating longer term clubs as they required extra space for items such as table tennis tables, bridge tables, sports equipment etc.

He suggested the main hall could be reduced in size and still be of a similar proportion to the School Room, and of a more usable shape.

21/070. THE VIKING CENTRE ARCHITECTS PLANS (CONTINUED)

The Town Clerk also had concerns with regard to toilet provision. Whilst a central toilet block made sense for space and efficiency the entire building would be accessible to all users including upstairs offices.

Although this was the case at Sprowston Diamond Centre caretakers were often onsite. To achieve a higher level of security he suggested each room have their own independent toilet facility possibly unisex and disabled. This could be achieved by redesigning the link corridor.

Mr J H Mallen suggested the use of pin codes for each door and commented it was essential the corridor was wide enough for two wheelchairs to pass in opposite directions.

Mrs J Leggett questioned if the link corridor was lit by roof lights and emphasised the importance of noise attenuation with regard to the hall and ventilation given the close proximity to a neighbouring property.

She also speculated on there being sufficient remaining outdoor space for tables and chairs.

Mr M G Callam noted the communal café did not have a dedicated kitchen.

The Town Clerk advised there would not be an industrial style kitchen it would be equipped for making snacks and light refreshments.

The Town Clerk observed there were no plans submitted for the basement which he foresaw as being a light storage area, subject to suitable access.

It was agreed Councillors forward their availability to the Town Clerk to arrange a meeting with Jason Menezes to discuss the Viking Centre plans.

Referring to the meeting with DCK Accounting Solutions Mrs Leggett noted that HMRC should be informed within 30 days of a decision by Full Council to exercise an option to Tax.

It was agreed an item be placed on the Agenda for Full Council meeting to be held 15 September 2021.

21/071. REWILDING VERGES - POLICY AND CRITERIA

Councillor Coleman and the Town Clerk to produce a draft policy on rewilding of verges. To include type of verges suitable for rewilding, application for permission procedure, standards, time frame and costs.

21/072. SKATE PARK UPDATE

The Town Clerk reported he had been in contact with:

21/072. SKATE PARK UPDATE (CONTINUED)

- Thomas Farrant at Persimmon Homes to ascertain the dimensions of the land available for the skate park;
- The Drug Store in Norwich and will have more detailed conversations with them as they were very knowledgeable in the local skating scene;
- two local interested parties who would like input into the design and ethos of the skate park.

SYEP were holding a fun day on 3 September 2021 with mobile skate ramps. This will be an opportunity to gain feedback from the providers of the equipment and skaters.

Ms D Coleman enquired if the skatepark was to be floodlit and referred to comments from users of Eaton Park who said younger children used the facility earlier in the day followed by BMX riders. Skate boarders tended to arrive later in the day when the area was floodlit.

The Town observed if people living elsewhere in the country were attracted to the skatepark they would require access to public toilets. The nearest facilities, although not public, were located in the Garden Centre, Sprowston Sports and Social Club and Tesco Stores.

Councillors agreed that until the size of the plot was known it was difficult to plan what facilities could be included, however felt that toilets and flood lighting should be provided from the outset with CCTV at a later date if considered necessary.

21/073. REARRANGE VISIT TO OPEN 3G FACILITY

Councillors agreed to take no further action pending receipt of a joint proposal from Sprowston FC, Sprowston Rugby Club and Sprowston Cricket Club.

21/074. LOCATION OF ADULT GYM EQUIPMENT (FACILITIES SURVEY ACTION PLAN)

It was agreed the Town Clerk liaise with City Runners to identify suitable locations for adult gym equipment.

21/075. PRIORITIES AND TIMESCALES

Councillors reviewed the work programme and the agreed top three priorities as:

- (1) The Viking Centre - a meeting to be arranged with the architect.
- (2) Skate Park dimensions.

21/075. PRIORITIES AND TIMESCALES (CONTINUED)

(3) Nature wildlife area, communal gardens and rewilding verges.

It was noted the Town Clerk would obtain prices for the proposed gate on Barkers Lane playing field, and update the Neighbourhood Plan.

Mr J H Mallen suggested the group consider partner organisations to assist with co-ordinating the 2022 Fete.

Councillors resolved to hold the Fete on Saturday 23 July 2022 subject to full council approval and to discuss which groups to approach at a meeting to be arranged in October.

Mrs J Leggett suggested the fete was an opportunity to advertise Norfolk Flavours which promote all things local to the county.

Referring to D4 on the work programme there was discussion regarding delayed CIL receipts and the need for a timeline of anticipated income. This was particularly important as when architectural plans were agreed a decision on funding would be required and if by means of a loan consultation with residents.

Mr J H Mallen asked for an update on Minute 21/065 Beeston Park.

Mrs J Leggett responded she had spoken to Shaun Vincent Leader of Broadland District Council who advised it was included in the outline plan to which she was awaiting a copy.

Mrs Leggett advised she would pursue obtaining a copy as she wanted to know what had been agreed for Beeston Park and what was still flexible.

21/076. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Friday 24 September 2021, 3.00pm