

**RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WORKING GROUP MEETING – 24 SEPTEMBER
2021**

At the remote meeting of the Recreational Facilities Working Group held by video conference on Friday 24 September 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

21/077. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

21/078. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 23 AUGUST 2021

Minutes of the meeting held on 23 August 2021 were agreed without amendment.

21/079. REWILDING VERGES

Councillors considered the verge rewilding and/or planting - proposal for a pilot scheme and proposed agreement for residents to sign.

Ms D Coleman reported she had contacted Beeston, Mousehold and Sprowston garden centres for their expertise and advice.

Beeston and Mousehold Garden Centre were keen to be involved in the Council's project and agreed to be the point of contact for residents who wanted advice on suitable plants for verges.

Mousehold Garden Centre had experience on similar schemes in other parts of Norwich and put forward a range of ideas including Heathers, as Sprowston was formally heathland.

Ms Coleman presented an example of suggested signage and mindful that verges were part of the public highway possible wording for the pilot scheme as follows:

Public Verge Re-Wilding
No mow

21/079. REWILDING VERGES (CONTINUED)

It was agreed all signage be the same to maintain uniformity and recognisable as official signage, although it was accepted sizes could vary as made from reclaimed wood from building projects.

The cost of signage was discussed and a donation of £5.00 to cover Council's costs was recommended with an option to waive the fee where appropriate.

Ms Coleman hoped that once the pilot scheme was established it would generate interest and be self-perpetuating.

Councillors resolved to present the proposals to full Council once costs had been determined.

21/080. SKATE PARK SPECIFICATION AND UPDATE ON WHITE HOUSE FARM PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

The Town Clerk reported he had recently met with Sally Hoare Broadland District Councils Community Infrastructure Officer, with a further meeting arranged with Persimmon representatives, Broadland Section 106 team and planners to progress the skate park and discuss all other areas of the White House Farm development.

He had advised Persimmon that Council would soon be able to submit an initial draft specification for the skate park and Council wishes for the public to have a meaningful consultation once Persimmon have prepared the first draft plans.

The Town Clerk presented examples of skate parks from Eaton, Loddon and Bury St. Edmunds comparing skateable size, equipment and other facilities.

Councillors noted that individuals and groups would have differing ideas on preferred equipment and suggested a draft plan be prepared, within Council's budget, for consultation.

The working group to present pros and cons of each skate park to full Council and explain the design ethos to include BMX cyclists, skaters, scooters and skate boarders, together with financial and location constraints.

21/081. ADULT GYM EQUIPMENT

Having consulted with Norwich Runners the Town Clerk advised the response from their members was for gym equipment to be located on Barkers Lane open space as one of their running routes was Church Lane and Beeston Lane.

Whilst they liked the idea of gym equipment, he did not think it was their primary focus and a 400m running track was very popular. The cinder running track at Henderson's recreation ground had been cited as an example.

21/081. ADULT GYM EQUIPMENT (CONTINUED)

The Town Clerk advised Barkers Lane open space was of a sufficient size to accommodate a 400m running track which would be relatively low profile and not impinge on open space. There would also be adequate space to fit a full size, although not maximum size, football pitch in the middle.

Town Clerk to obtain installation and likely maintenance costs of a cinder running track.

21/082. UPDATE ON THE VIKING FINANCES

The Town Clerk reported Council had received the first CIL receipt of £171,000 from Barratt David Wilson Homes which had been used towards purchase of the Viking Centre in May, as reported to Council.

The Keir Living development started in April 2021 and he had been advised by Broadland District Council's CIL officer that Halsbury Homes development had commenced.

He was awaiting information on when Council could expect further CIL receipts or of what value. However, he was expecting an initial CIL receipt payment from Kier Living and a second of four CIL receipts from Barratt David Wilson Homes in October and an initial CIL receipt payment from Halsbury Homes in April 2022.

In answer to Councillors questions, including what would happen to CIL payments if a developer went into liquidation, the Town Clerk advised that figures obtained in February 2021, assuming there had been no changes, indicated that CIL receipts equating to £2.1m should be paid to Council by April 2024. He would clarify if these figures were still correct and the process should a developer cease trading with Sally Hoare.

The Town Clerk presented the revised, third draft, plans from Jason Menezes which would be submitted to Council on 6 October 2021 for their consideration. Jason would also prepare a budgeting cost for Council to consider at the same time.

Working Group Councillor's felt the 3rd draft plans were acceptable subject to cost and approval by Council.

21/083. TINY FORESTS

The Town Clerk thanked Councillors for their suggestions on suitable areas for Tiny Forests. He had collated and highlighted ownership of each site.

It was agreed that Broadland Officers be invited to assess locations owned by Council for their suitability before presenting to full Council on 27 October 2021

21/083. TINY FORESTS (CONTINUED)

Ms D Coleman gave details of the Salhouse Community Nursery project where a local resident was cultivating trees for planting around the parish in primarily private land and hedgerows.

She was now surveying for suitable areas in Sprowston where hedgerows could be planted and identified the Diamond Field on School Lane.

21/084. LETTER TO BDC PLANNING RE SECURING OPEN SPACE AND SPORTS FACILITIES ON WHITE HOUSE FARM PHASE 3 AND BEESTON PARK

Mrs J Leggett reported that having looked at planning applications relating to Beeston Park she had established there was 2000 sqm of community space including health centre, library and community halls.

Councillors did not consider this to be adequate given the size of the development.

Mr M G Callam stated that Council needed more amenity space in the undeveloped land within the growth triangle.

There was discussion on availability of open space on various phases of the White House Farm development. It was agreed that a letter be sent to Broadland District Council setting out the challenges the parish was facing with regard to recreational and amenity space and Council's expectations that these be taken into consideration when planning was settled for Beeston Park and the relevant phases of White House Farm.

21/085. OTHER INITIATIVES

Mrs J Leggett floated the idea of a café in Sprowston Pavilion. Whilst it was considered a good use of the building and an additional amenity for visitors to the park the Town Clerk advised it was used by grounds staff as a rest room. It had been recognised for some years that grounds staff were in need of their own facility located within their work area.

It was noted that several companies franchised out their properties.

The Town Clerk said a commercial lease similar to Chestnut Nursery at Sprowston Diamond Centre would be an option providing there was covenant regarding maintenance of the building. It could be achieved without significant outlay from the Council.

It was suggested Council let it be known they were looking to lease Sprowston Pavilion for use as a café.

If Council were agreeable the initiative to lease Sprowston Pavilion for provision of a café to be added to the list of topics for the Recreational Facilities Working Group to explore.

21/085. OTHER INITIATIVES (CONTINUED)

Mr M G Callam commented on the marshy area in Sprowston Recreation Ground referred to by Marcus Moore at Council meetings. It had been constructed during the 1990's however drainage was so efficient it dried out.

Mrs J Leggett enquired about the 2022 Platinum Jubilee Beacon and Sprowston Fete.

The Town Clerk reported Council's resolution was to ascertain if any local groups were planning activities to mark the Jubilee. He had drafted an email and listed those organisations he considered contacting whilst inviting Councillors to add their suggestions. As to Sprowston Fete he would include an invitation in his email for interested parties to have representation on a new working group to plan a summer fete.

In response to a question from Mrs J Leggett the Town Clerk advised he was meeting Paul Wheeler from SYEP to progress the planning application for the urban garden on Church Lane.

21/086. PRIORITIES AND TIMESCALES

Recreational Facilities Working Group work programme to be updated and placed on the full Council meeting agenda 6 October 2021.

21/087. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Friday 22 October 2021- 3.00pm