

## **RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WORKING GROUP MEETING – 19 NOVEMBER 2021**

At the remote meeting of the Recreational Facilities Working Group held by video conference on Friday 19 November 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

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### **21/096. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were received.

### **21/097. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 24 SEPTEMBER 2021**

Minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2021 were agreed without amendment.

### **21/098. MATTERS ARISING**

#### (a) Rewilding Verges

Ms D Coleman confirmed that 30 wooden signs would be made by the end of November in preparation for the pilot scheme.

To increase interest the Town Clerk suggested Council print and deliver fliers to residents living on Cozens Hardy Road and Colindene Lane, the two roads in the pilot scheme.

Ms D Coleman offered to deliver them once printed.

#### (b) Tiny Forests

The Town Clerk shared an email with Councillors displaying the timeline for implementation of a tiny forest on Sprowston Recreation Ground. The scheme had been agreed by Kent County Council and planting was scheduled to take place between 1 December 2021 and 15 January 2022.

Mr J H Mallen asked if the Town Clerk had given thought to monitoring vandalism. The Town Clerk advised that the area could be fenced and gated and he was considering locking the gates until the trees became established.

## **21/098. MATTERS ARISING (CONTINUED)**

Mrs J Leggett recommended erecting signage advising visitors that access would be available once the forest had established itself.

### **(c) Gates on Barkers Lane**

Responding to a question from Mr J H Mallen the Town Clerk advised G and G Fencing had accepted work to erect a gate and fencing at Barkers Lane open space. However, there was approximately a 20- week lead in time and he estimated work would commence during February 2022.

### **(d) Café at Sprowston Recreation Ground**

Town Clerk to check legalities with regard to the proposal of a pop-up café on Sprowston Recreation Ground, by end of December 2021.

Mr J H Mallen commented on the popularity of the café at Angel Road Park.

### **(e) Sprowston Youth Engagement Project (SYEP) Urban Garden**

The Town Clerk confirmed he had recently received details on the urban garden which he would review and submit a planning application to the Planning Authority on behalf of SYEP.

## **21/099. SKATE PARK AN UPDATE**

Town Clerk reported he had not heard from the developers however he was meeting with Broadland District Council officers the following week to discuss the skate park and Whitehouse Farm and sought to have the play areas open by summer 2022.

## **21/100. VIKING CENTRE**

Town Clerk reported he hoped to meet Jason Menezes next week.

Details of the consultation were in Sprowston Matters which was currently being delivered. The closing date for comment was 30 January 2022.

Public consultation drop-in sessions to be held at the Viking Centre on Tuesday 18 January 2022 (10.00am - 1.00pm) and Wednesday 19 January 2022 (6.00pm - 8.00pm) had been agreed by Council.

He was still awaiting the final report with recommendations on VAT from DCK Accounting.

## **21/101. ADULT GYM AND RUNNING TRACK**

The Town Clerk shared a generic brochure on screen showing examples of running tracks. He advised the preferred surface was now Polymeric as it was easier to maintain than cinder.

## **21/101. ADULT GYM AND RUNNING TRACK (CONTINUED)**

He had obtained one very rough quotation of £360,000 - £375,000 for a six-lane track including sprint lane.

The Town Clerk proposed Council establish exactly what the running club wanted and if their requirements were not outside the realms of possibility for members of the working group to visit Henderson Recreation Ground to determine how the running track impacted on the surrounding environment.

Mr J H Mallen reminded members of the working group of Barkers Lane open space status and some Councillors desire for it to remain so. He did not feel the Council had funds to provide a six-lane facility however, given runners in Sprowston were currently using pavements and roads a two or three-lane track might be welcomed. He questioned how much a track would get used and expressed concern about the compatibility of a running track with other users of the park and potential for collisions and flashpoints with dogs off leads. He was pleased the running club liked the idea of external gym equipment located at points around Sprowston to stop and perform other forms of exercise, and whilst willing to explore the possibility of a track on Barkers Lane open space he urged for caution.

Mr M G Callam suggested obtaining a quotation for a three-lane running track with sprint lane to ascertain if provision of this type of facility was realistic.

Mrs J Leggett emphasised that the working group were simply exploring opportunities for additional facilities in Sprowston suitable for presenting to Full Council.

## **21/102. EVENTS**

### **(a) Jubilee**

It was agreed to focus on the fete and revisit the Queen's Jubilee event in early 2022.

### **(a) Summer Fete**

Ms D Coleman suggested music and identified two local people who were self-sufficient and had their own equipment.

Following discussion, it was resolved:

Town Clerk to:

- (i) amend the draft letter and questionnaire he prepared to establish if organisations were interested in participating in a summer fete and circulate to members of the working group for consideration and agreement.

## **21/102. EVENTS (CONTINUED)**

- (ii) send the approved letter and questionnaire to the list of organisations agreed at Full Council meeting held on 17 November 2021 for both Jubilee and Fete events with the addition of B2 at the Brickmakers Public House.
- (iii) investigate food and beer vendors.
- (iv) contact Old Catton Parish Clerk for Larry Grey's contact details.

Mrs J Leggett to contact Broadland District Council to ascertain if a licence is required.

## **21/103. ITEMS PLANNED TO END OF YEAR**

- (a) Letter to Broadland - re: Provision of open space on large scale housing developments

Responding to a question from Mr J H Mallen the Town Clerk advised he had not received an official update on Beeston Park however, Chris Raine, Majors Planning Officer for the Beeston Park development, was attending the meeting mentioned in Minute 21/099. He intended to take this opportunity to discuss securing recreational and amenity space at Beeston Park.

The Town Clerk to draft a letter to Phil Courtier, Broadland District Council Director of Place, 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.

Letter to be circulated to members of the working group for consideration and agreement and once approved placed on the agenda of full council meeting to be held 15 December 2021.

- (b) Neighbourhood Plan Report

Town Clerk to update by end of December 2021.

## **21/104. AOB**

No matters raised.

## **21/105. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Friday 17 December 2021 at 3.00pm