

BRACKNELL TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

26th July 2016

Present: Chairman: Cllr. Clive Harrison.
Cllrs: Gill Birch, Sandra Ingham, Roger Meakes, Paula-Elizabeth Pooler,
Michael Skinner, Mary Temperton, Jo Woodcock.
Apologies: Diane Finch.
In Attendance: R Reeve TC, Burgess OSM, A Moffat RFM.

The Meeting opened at 7.30pm and closed at 8.30pm

1439 **Declarations of Interest** - None

1440 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Services Committee held on the 24th May 2016 were proposed for agreement by Cllr Roger Meakes and seconded by Cllr Paula-Elizabeth Pooler as a true record of the meeting and then signed by the Chairman.

1441 **Matters Arising not to be considered elsewhere on the Agenda** - None

1442 **Great Hollands Recreation Ground - Pavilion rebuild**

Our Design team, Ridge & Partners LLP, were proceeding with preliminary site and building surveys, and once these were complete, this would enable a clearer indication of design, works needed and timetable for securing a replacement pavilion. In response to a question from Cllr Ingham, it was agreed that any Councillor could attend GHP WG meetings, with the next one in early September (6th). The funding application for the £1m PWLB grant via the NALC route had been successful
Councillors NOTED progress made.

1443 **South Hill Park (SHP)**

Remedial works to North Lake banks were now expected to start in September. It was advised that works would take 6 to 10 weeks.

Green Flag status had been re-awarded for this year.

Cllr Birch advised she had notified the SHP Chief Executive of some improvements to be made for the running of future SHP events, following the Queen's Tea Party event, and she was hoping that car parking would be well managed for the upcoming 30th July Bracknell Festival – the RFM was due to meet SHP officers regarding the use of the North field.

Cllr Temperton asked that measures be taken to prevent the rope swing at the South Hill Road play area being further damaged by dogs. The RFM would investigate.

Councillors NOTED outcomes and progress made.

1444 **Events/ Summer activity days**

The Teddy Bears Picnic in June had been a success.

Summer activity days were being organised for 3rd August – Great Hollands, 17th August – Braybrooke and 31st August – North Lake

Councillors NOTED progress/ plans being made.

1445 **Jocks Lane**

Tennis: The tennis facilities were now operating well.

Crazy golf – Nine new holes had been installed, linked to the designs provided by local children under Fusion's earlier project, and the other holes had nearly all been refurbished. Councillors requested this be publicised with a competition involving BTC councillors/ Fusion staff/ children involved in the design.

Green Flag status had also been re-awarded for 2016. Councillors asked that BTC staff be thanked for their efforts.

Britain in Bloom – BTC were awaiting confirmation of the rating, following the judges' visit on 8th July.

Councillors NOTED progress made

1446 **Fishing at the Cut:** a request to allow fishing at The Cut was agreed. This initiative is being supported by the Environment Agency and this would be managed by the community fishing club recently set up and based at Braybrooke. Councillors asked that the Environment Wardens be thanked for their efforts.
Councillors AGREED proposals for fishing at The Cut.

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- 1447 **Brooke House**
BRP are expected to replace the shop front, upstairs office windows, and install new front/ rear doors soon. Cllr Birch asked that the internal aspects to the downstairs reception were not overlooked when the works were undertaken.
Councillors NOTED update.
- 1448 **The Bracknell Show**
The Chairman explained that the Bracknell Show on July 23rd, organised by the Bracknell Lions, had been successful, but with some improvements possible, for example in ensuring using better use of the car parking areas provided.
Councillors NOTED outcomes.
- 1449 **Bracknell in Bloom (BIB)**
Work had progressed on developing Bracknell's 'Your Gardens' approaches and BTC had successfully entering two parks (Jocks Lane and South Hill Park) for judging in the 'Parks' category of the In Bloom competition – results were waited.
Plans were being made to enable Bracknell to perform strongly in 2017 in the RHS competition, including then to exhibit the Lexicon, green spaces, and proposed new raised beds at the Elms.
Proposals for enhancing the attractiveness of the Bracknell railway station were also outlined, and councillors were keen that local students became involved with the proposed artwork as intended.
Councillors NOTED progress and plans being made.
- 1450 **Play areas**
The refurbishment programme had been progressed, with Stoney Road, Yardley (which Cllr Temperton commended) and the slide at Hedgehog Park all recently completed.
Councillors NOTED progress made
- 1451 **Larges Lane Cemetery**
Proposals for introducing a number of 'family plots' for cremation ashes were agreed to enable fuller use to be made of the few remaining plots at Larges Lane Cemetery.
Pruning of the large overhanging branches from adjacent trees (along Gipsy Lane) was recently completed
Councillors NOTED progress made and agreed plans to introduce cremation 'family plots'
- 1452 **The Great British Spring Clean - 2017**
There is to be a further national clean-up campaign next year throughout the month of March 2017, with a particular focus on the weekend of 3-5 March. BTC would register to become involved.
Councillors NOTED plans being made
- 1453 **Limerick Close**
The allotments were not currently being best utilised because of a lack of site access to water. Options for use of the site outlined in a paper produced by Cllr Bidwell were considered, with uses such as for a community orchard discussed, but with use as an allotments site preferred provided there was an adequate water supply to make the plots viable, although noting this could be costly. Cllr Birch suggested asking for a contribution from BFH towards the water supply, and also seeking involvement from local groups.
Councillors AGREED an approach which would initially include the RFM working on securing a water supply, either from the mains (cost to be incurred), water butts or via a nearby house.
- 1454 **Travellers**
The Council had had four unauthorised encampments of travellers. Removal was achieved within twenty four hours three times, twice with police assistance and once with bailiffs, with the traveller group allowed to stay until an agreed departure date on the other occasion. Councillors asked that officers concerned be thanked for prompt actions taken, and also suggested that approaches taken in neighbouring authorities be monitored (with Runnymede mentioned as an exemplar).
BTC had also further strengthened anti-incursion defences at various locations by a variety of measures – some of these were outlined to Councillors

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Councillors NOTED action taken in respect of recent encampments and preventative steps, and also AGREED to update officers on any further preventative action they identified as being needed.

1455 **Support for childrens' nurseries**

BTC had now had a detailed proposal for siting a 'porta cabin' type building for use as a childrens' nursery at Birch Hill Recreation Ground from the Birch Hill pre-school nursery. This was circulated at the meeting for Councillors to consider. Cllr Birch was supportive of the proposal, providing car parking issues were addressed. The RFM had a proposed location which would avoid car parking spaces being lost.

At Great Hollands, an approach was anticipated from the Pavilion Nursery, but a detailed proposal had not yet been provided.

Both nurseries needed to vacate their existing sites, and both were planning to respond to the Department for Education seeking bids for capital funding to expand childcare provision, with applications needing to be submitted by 31 August.

It was agreed that Councillor approval be granted in principal for supporting these nurseries in their applications, with details/ terms for the future siting of any porta cabins on our sites to be reported back to Strategy and Finance Committee in September. This would be on the basis of BTC costs being reimbursed, the nurseries obtaining funding and planning approval, as well as sharing non-nursery related lettings income.

Date of next meeting – 18th October 2016 at 7.30 pm

Signed

Dated