

Minutes

Community Committee 21st July 2014

Membership/Attendance

- * Cllr Chilvers (Chair)
- * Cllr Mrs Squirrell (Vice-Chair)
- * Cllr Barrett
- Cllr Carter
- * Cllr Mrs Coe
- * Cllr Mrs Hones
- * Cllr Mrs Hubbard
- * Cllr McCheyne
- * Cllr Parker
- * Cllr Ms Sanders

*present

Substitute Present

Cllr Quirk (for Cllr Carter)

Also present

Cllr Aspinell
Cllr Baker
Cllr Hossack
Cllr Le-Surf
Cllr Lloyd
Cllr Morrissey
Cllr Mynott
Cllr Tee

Officers Present

Jo-Anne Ireland – Acting Chief Executive
Kim Anderson – Partnership, Leisure and Funding Manager
Ashley Culverwell – Head of Borough Health Safety and Localism
Claire Hayden - Governance and Member Support Officer
Mandy Major - Senior Revenues Officer
Roy Ormsby - Head of Streetscene
Rick Steels – Revenue and Benefits Manager

92. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absences were received from Cllr Carter.

93. Minutes of Community Service Committee meeting held on 26.2.2014

Members noted that the minutes related to matters some of which now fell within the remit of this Committee and they had already been signed by the Chairs of Environment Committee, Housing & Health Committee and Business and Town Centres Committee.

RESOLVED to approve as a true record the minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on 26.2.2014.

94. Remit of Committee and Community Funding - Presentation

The remit of this new Committee is shown in the presentation for the benefit of Members. The Terms of Reference were agreed at the last Annual Council. Any amendments would need to be agreed by Full Council after referral to the Constitution Working Group (CWG).

Members are also reminded of the community funding streams available to both them and the community.

Cllr Hubbard asked for guidance from officers relating to Ward Budgets for all new members is provided.

A motion was **MOVED** by Cllr Chilvers and **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs Squirrel to receive the recommendations as set out in the report.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY to:

- 2.1 That Members note the presentation and contact the Partnership Leisure and funding manager in respect of any community funding enquiries.

95. King George's Playing Field

King George's Playing Fields is one of the Council's key play areas, and attracts visitors from all over Essex to participate in family leisure activities, and organised sport through rugby, football, golf and bowls.

The recent approval of the adventure golf, which will attract additional visitors to the Borough, and the lease with the rugby club, which has attracted over £50,000 in grant funding for pitch improvements, is a clear sign that the Council is prepared to work in partnership with the private and voluntary sector to improve facilities in the park.

However, with financial challenges faced by all Councils over the coming years it is important that this Council identifies further opportunities to work with the private, and voluntary sector to ensure that facilities in the park are continually improved, and meet the high expectations expected by our residents.

On two occasions over recent years there have been attempts to attract private sector investors to manage the golf course, but neither has attracted any reasonable offers. This is probably due to the contract being offered for a stand alone golf course, with no ancillary facilities to generate further income.

There is a need to identify alternative approaches to managing the facilities in the park through working with other sectors to attract further investment in the facilities. There is a need to develop a long-term strategy, where all sectors can invest in the park, especially the voluntary sector through opportunities to attract grant funding from a wide range of agencies.

Members requested that future reports on King George's Playing Fields, should include both Brentwood South and Warley Wards, under the report title - wards affected. This was noted by the clerk.

Members of the Committee made a number of initial suggestions for consideration including:

- Investigation of eco-friendly and sustainable solutions.
- Adult fitness equipment-outdoor gyms
- Art pieces
- Free play
- Toddler enclosed area
- Bike repair shed (linked to the Skate Park)
- Relocation of the Basketball net
- Advice from nature conservation organisations

A motion was MOVED by Cllr Chilvers and SECONDED by Cllr Quirk to receive the recommendations as set out in the report subject to a suggested alteration by the mover after a full discussion.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY to:

- 2.1 Agree that Officers commence work on the development of a long-term strategy for the development of facilities in the park.
- 2.2 Agree that Officers enter into discussions with all voluntary organisations within the park to identify opportunities to work in partnership to benefit the facilities in the park.
- 2.3 Agree that Officers identify opportunities to develop the current building, which is currently used as the golf club, golf shop, cafe and changing facilities.

2.4 *That all Ward Members of Warley and Brentwood South liaise with officers to identify development opportunities with the park.*

96. Local Support Services Framework

This report provides Members with details of the partnership work that officers from the Council and other local organisations have been undertaking to introduce a local support services framework.

The framework is designed to provide proactive support, including help with finding employment, to residents who have suffered major life changing events or who have been affected by welfare reforms which have resulted in a cessation or reduction of payments due to the Council.

Advice and support to maximise income opportunities, debt and budgetary advice and specialist support and advice to enhance a resident's job prospects will all be provided within the framework.

It is currently expected that residents will be provided with the aforementioned support from September 2014.

Members requested that opportunities for supporting Brentwood Community Print and Mental Health Organisations such as Essex Mental Health be explored.

Further periodic reports will be presented to Members regarding the progress of the framework.

A motion was MOVED by Cllr Chilvers and SECONDED by Cllr Mrs Squirrell to approve the recommendation set out in the report.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY to:

- 2.1 That Members endorse the continuing development of the Local Support Services Framework and to agree that officers report back to this committee on its further progress.

97. Health and Wellbeing Strategy

The report introduced the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Work Plan, which was developed by the Health and Wellbeing Board. It includes the priorities identified in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment carried out by Essex County Council. The actions for the priorities are addressed in the Work Plan.

Cllr Quirk suggested a further update be brought to this Committee in 6 months including an evaluation of the cost of Officer time in supporting the work of the Board.

A motion was MOVED by Cllr Chilvers and SECONDED by Cllr Mrs Squirrell to approve the recommendation set out in the report.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY to:

- 2.1 The Committee approves the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Work Plan for 2014-2017.

98. Commissioning Prospectus

The Funding Strategy was agreed at Strategy and Policy Board on 20 November 2013. One of the strands of the Funding Strategy was to move away from direct grant funding to a commissioning approach. The Commissioning Prospectus will ensure that the services it commissions will be targeted and support the local community, while meeting the Council's priorities.

The draft Commissioning Prospectus provided details of the outcomes being commissioned, and clarifies what Brentwood Borough Council wants to achieve within the Borough on behalf of its communities. These achievements are set out as outcomes and objectives.

A motion was **MOVED** by Cllr Chilvers and **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs Squirrell to approve the recommendations set out in the report.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY to:

- 2.1 For Members to agree to the approach shown in the draft commissioning prospectus at Appendix A and for officers to consult with the voluntary sector organisations involved in the existing service delivery
- 2.2 That Members provide any additional input to the contents of the Draft Commissioning Prospectus to the Partnership, Leisure and Funding Manager by 21 August 2014.
- 2.3 That final agreement of the Commissioning Prospectus is delegated to the Head of Borough Health, Safety and Localism in consultation with the Chair of this Committee.

99. "Lights Out" for the First World War Commemoration

The Chair asked Members to support "Lights Out" for the First World War Commemoration. "Light's Out" is an invitation by the Royal British Legion for everyone in the UK to turn off their lights between 10pm-11pm on 4th August 2014 – leaving only a single light or candle for this symbolic act of reflection and hope.

It was agreed **UNANIMOUSLY** to support this event.

100. Events Progress and Evaluation

The report before Members provided an update and an evaluation of the current Community events that the Council organises. Currently the Council organises ten community events throughout the year, eight Family Fun Days, Strawberry Fair and Lighting Up Brentwood. These are organized through the Community Services team.

Members of the Committee made a number of initial suggestions for consideration including:

- Warley Memorial for WW1
- Carnivals
- Raft Races
- Arts Festival
- Lighting up in Shenfield
- Cycle Races
- Its a Knockout style event
- Consult with Paul Golder at Phoenix FM
- Ask staff for ideas

A motion was **MOVED** by Cllr Chilvers and **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs Hubbard to approve the recommendations set out in the report.

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY to:

- 2.1 For Members to consider additional events or enhancements to existing events that will strengthen communities, increase the Borough's Leisure/community offer and provide suggestions to the Partnership, Leisure and Funding Manager. (Any additional resource requirements will be considered by the Finance and Resources Committee)
- 2.2 To instruct officers to provide robust feedback and evaluation of events, which will include feedback from visitors, Officers, Members and other stakeholders enabling a continuous process of improvements from lessons learned.

101. Termination of Meeting

During the preceding item, in accordance with Rule 28 of Part 4.1 – Council Procedure Rules, the business of the meeting not having concluded by two hours after its start, Members voted and agreed to continue with the meeting for a further 30 minutes.

102. Council Borough Bulletin

The report outlined additional information and recommendations arising from the need to consult with residents over future development options for William Hunter Way, Brentwood.

The report recommends a pilot Brentwood wide Council news bulletin. It is anticipated that this will cost approximately £5k and can be achieved within existing budgets.

The recommendations below supercede those contained within the original agenda item.

Members clearly stated that they did not want email addresses to be sold or used for any other purposes.

A motion was **MOVED** by Cllr Chilvers and **SECONDED** by Cllr Quirk to approve the recommendations set out in the report and following a full discussion a vote was taken on a show of hands and the motion was **RESOLVED**:

- 2.1 That a Borough wide news bulletin is piloted and that the first edition includes the consultation for the William Hunter Way development.
- 2.3 Officers are instructed to report back to this Committee on the results of the feedback of the pilot news bulletin to enable a decision to be made on continuing with regular editions.

103. Termination of Meeting

During the preceding item, in accordance with Rule 28 of Part 4.1 – Council Procedure Rules, the business of the meeting not having concluded by two hours after its start, Members voted and agreed to continue with the meeting for a further 30 minutes.
