

'Subject to Approval at the Next Working Group Meeting'

ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE WORKING GROUP

9 October 2018 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: - Councillors Hitchins (Chairman), Warren (Vice-Chairman), Ambler, Brooks, Dingemans, Mrs Neno, Oliver-Redgate and Reynolds.

Councillor Clayden, as Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing, was also in attendance at the meeting.

16. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Mrs Bence, Brooks, Bicknell, Buckland, Cates and Dr Walsh.

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

18. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 31 July 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to inclusion of Councillor Mrs Neno in the apologies received.

19. LITTLEHAMPTON LEISURE CENTRE

The Working Group received a written report and slide presentation from the Principal Landscape Officer which provided a visual update showing the progress of the works to the Littlehampton Leisure Centre.

The following comments were made:-

- Freedom Leisure was holding a recruitment open day on 25 October 2018 from 10.30 am to 5.30 pm which was an opportunity to promote new jobs.
- There was some discussion in respect of energy options at the Leisure Centre, namely wind catchers on the roof and solar panels. The wind catchers had been installed to provide an opportunity for natural air to be circulated rather than relying solely on air conditioning. Solar panels had been considered as part of the energy strategy but had not been progressed at this stage as a combined heating and power system would provide a better solution and would be more cost effective. Solar panels might be considered in the future.

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- With regard to the Sports Hall, the Group Head of Community Wellbeing confirmed that there were no acoustic panels, however, he was sure Freedom Leisure would be amenable to receiving event applications of a suitable nature.

The Chairman thanked the Principal Landscape Officer for her update and the Working Group then noted the report.

20. SAFER ARUN PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REVIEW 2017-2018

The Chairman welcomed Inspector Steve Turner, Arun Prevention Policing Team, to the meeting, who was in attendance to provide additional input on the work of the Safer Arun Partnership (SAP).

The Working Group received a comprehensive presentation from the Community Manager which provided an annual update with regard to the progress of SAP during 2017/18 in delivering the strategic priorities contained in its Partnership Plan for 2017/22. The report on the table provided information to enable Members to understand performance to date and also provided a summary assessment of the future challenges and opportunities for SAP.

The Community Manager was pleased to advise that the multi-agency partners were working well together and the positive outcomes that were being achieved was a testament to the commitment of all parties in tackling the issues detailed in the report.

The Working Group then participated in a question and answer session with the Community Manager and Inspector Turner which covered a variety of issues, including :-

- the increase in the crime figures – Inspector Turner advised that this was due to a number of factors but was mainly as a result of a new national process that had been introduced in the way crime was now reported.
- Members expressed concern with regard to the increase in anti-social behaviour in the Town Centres of Littlehampton and Bognor Regis and Inspector Turner explained the complexities of what they were dealing with. The Partnership had an important role to play and all agencies were working to address the issues.
- Rough Sleeping was raised and the Community Manager advised that the public could report on this by using Streetlink at www.streetlink.org.uk or by calling 0300 500 0914. These streetlink notifications would then be sent to the Council’s Homeless Outreach Keyworkers who would then undertake outreach to locate individuals to offer support and guidance on how to access accommodation. The Keyworkers were supported by a multi-agency group of local organisations and charities who worked together to provide the services needed to tackle rough sleeping in Arun

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- County drug lines was discussed and the Community Manager advised on the actions being taken to deal with the matter. There was a need to pro-actively engage with the London Boroughs and to keep the District’s young people safe from the drugs gangs. She had personally raised the matter with the LGA (Local Government Association) as it was a particular issue across the south coast.
- The positive points in the report needed to be publicised as it was important for the general public to understand that action was being taken and good outcomes were being achieved.
- On the question being put, information was given about closure orders and how they were dealt with

The Chairman stated that the report illustrated that there was a lot of good work being undertaken within the District and he commended the work of the Partnership. On behalf of the Working Group he thanked the Community Manager for her informative and interesting report and Inspector Turner for his input to the debate.

The Working Group then

RECOMMEND TO CABINET – That

(1) the work of the Safer Arun Partnership be endorsed and the importance of partnership working in contributing to reducing anti-social behaviour and addressing Street Community issues is recognised; and

(2) recognition be given to the work of the Safer Arun Partnership in contributing to the delivery of the Council’s strategic priority “supporting you if you need help”.

(The meeting concluded at 7.00 pm)