

ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE WORKING GROUP

3 September 2020 at 6.00 pm

Present: Councillors Mrs Warr (Chairman), Brooks (Vice-Chair), Bicknell, Clayden, Dixon, Gunner, Huntley, Kelly and Ms Thurston

Councillor Coster was also in attendance for all or part of the meeting.

Apologies: Councillors Mrs Catterson, Mrs Cooper, Purchase and Mrs Staniforth

10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

11. MINUTES

The minutes of the last Environment & Leisure Working Group that was held on 27 February 2020 were approved.

12. MEETING START TIMES

The Working Group

RESOLVED

The start times of its meeting for the municipal year 2020/21 be 6pm.

13. EMERGENCY PLANNING UPDATE

The Emergency Planning Officer introduced his report and provided the Working Group with a detailed presentation.

There were a number of questions asked by the Working Group and these are detailed below:

- It was asked where Councillors would be able to find the emergency risk plans that were referred to in the presentation. It was confirmed that a link would be provided to councillors so that they could view these plans.
- Clarity was sought on who makes the decision on who/what organisations fall into Category 1 or 2 and when were these groups of individuals informed of their responsibilities during an emergency. It was explained that it would depend on the type of emergency incident, and that dependant on the type of incident would influence the priority of communication in a 'need to know' scenario. In relation to

Environment & Leisure Working Group - 3.09.20

the Category 1 & 2 definitions it was confirmed that these were defined in the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

- There was some surprise that the Council fell into the Category 1 group. It was confirmed that this was correct and as a Local Authority it does have the ability to respond to emergency incidents 24 hours a day. The responsibilities upon the Council in this type of incident would be an extension of the day to day responsibilities, so the Council would be well versed in exercising these.
- In terms of a possible local lockdown it was asked if there was any support needed from Members. It was advised that if there was going to be a local lockdown enforced the information and direction would come from the Government and then feed through the strategic level of the Council first, this would then be communicated in a controlled manner.

The Working Group then noted the contents of the report update.

14. PLACE ST MAUR

The Principal Landscape Officer introduced her report and provided the Working Group with an update on the plans for Place St Maur in Bognor Regis.

There were a number of questions asked by the Working Group these are detailed below:

- It was queried why the inclusion of trees had not be considered in the plans, even if they were in planters that made them portable, it was felt that the success of London Road was due to the inclusion of the trees in that plan as the trees helped to create a nice ambience. It was confirmed that elements of soft landscape would be included and the selection of this would depend on its ability to withstand the exposed conditions of the site.
- There were several questions & suggestions raised relating to the Esplanade these have been detailed below;
 - Had a business plan been created and if so, would Members be able to have a copy. It was clarified by the Principal Landscape Officer that a number of supporting documents had been submitted and that these could be shared with Members.
 - Were there plans to landscape the Esplanade. It was confirmed that this would be something that the consultants would explore.
 - Could Palm Trees be considered in the plans for the Esplanade.
 - Consideration of the bus route was requested to be reviewed at a later point
 - A request that the seafront was not shut permanently was made as it was felt this would be a disaster for business located on the seafront
 - Where was funding going to come from and was there a chance that the Council would not be successful in obtaining funding and if so, what was plan B. It was confirmed that the Council had made a

bid for funding from the Central Government, 'Get Building Fund' pot. Whilst at this point it could not be confirmed if the Council would be successful, the Council had been shortlisted and was awaiting a decision on this. The report to Cabinet in November 2020 would consider both the internal and external funding. Regarding the Consultant fee, this could not be confirmed until the Council goes out to tender.

- When would it be likely that the Council would hear the outcome of the funding bid. It was confirmed that an answer was expected in the next few weeks.
- Would Ward Members have the opportunity to see plans and provide their thoughts and feedback. It was confirmed that this opportunity would be made available to Members and other stakeholders.

The Working Group then noted the update.

15. REPORT BACK FROM CABINET/FULL COUNCIL

The Chairman drew the Members attention to the agenda that documented the last recommendations that were approved by Full Council and Cabinet. The Working Group noted this information

16. WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20

The Group Head of Neighbourhood Services presented the Work Programme for 2020/21 to the Working Group.

Councillor Gunner raised that at the last meeting of the Working Group in February 2020 there had been several suggestions raised with the then Chairman Councillor Mrs Staniforth and he was disappointed to see that these suggestions were not on the work programme being presented at the meeting tonight. It was confirmed that the Committee Manager, the Group Head of Neighbourhood Services & Community Wellbeing would get an update on where these discussions ended and feedback to Members outside of this meeting.

Councillor Bicknell advised that he really didn't want the Working Group to forget about the Local Community Network update, he stated that he felt that this item could be added to the meeting in March 2020. The Group Head of Community Wellbeing advised he would speak with colleagues at Public Health and the NHS to see if that could be arranged.

Councillor Ms Thurston wanted her disappointed registered regarding the fact that Climate Change and Tree planting had been delayed till December 2020. She stated that Climate Change needed to be a priority and could an interim update not be provided before December. Councillor Dixon spoke in support of Councillor Ms

Environment & Leisure Working Group - 3.09.20

Thurston advising that he was disappointed that the position of a Climate Change Manager had not been filled yet. He stated although we have had a pandemic the Council should have been able to have completed this work by now.

After further discussion from Members on this Work Programme a proposal was put forward by Councillor Bicknell and seconded by Councillor Dixon that the following items were added to the Work Programme;

- Local Community Network update to be received by March 2020
- Flooding (specifics to be confirmed) update to be received by March 2020

The Working Group

RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL; That

the Work Programme for 2020/21 be approved

(The meeting concluded at 7.25 pm)