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COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Meeting held on Thursday 1 September 2016 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Matlock at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor Andrew Statham - In the Chair

Councillors Richard Bright, Martin Burfoot, Albert Catt, Ann Elliott, Joyce Pawley, Garry Purdy, Mike Ratcliffe, Lewis Rose OB and Colin Swindell.

Dorcas Bunton (Chief Executive), Sandra Lamb (Head of Corporate Services), Tim Braund (Head of Regulatory Services), Heidi McDougall (Head of Environmental Services), Ashley Watts (Head of Community Development) and Jackie Cullen (Committee Assistant).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jason Atkin, Sue Bull, Vicky Massey, Tony Morley, Philippa Tilbrook and Joanne Wild. Councillor Garry Purdy attended as Substitute Member.

151/16 - MINUTES

It was moved by Councillor Albert Catt, seconded by Councillor Colin Swindell and

RESOLVED

(unanimously)

That the minutes of the meeting of the Community & Environment Committee held on 2 June 2016 be approved as a correct record.

The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

152/16 – CONSULTATION RESULTS, MATLOCK BUS STATION PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The Committee considered a report on the results of the consultation undertaken with regard to changing the opening hours of the public conveniences and waiting room at Matlock Bus Station to minimise the opportunity of vandalism occurring.

An online survey had been available for 6 weeks; letters were sent to the transport operators, and users of the bus and train services were questioned. The full results of the survey were attached in Appendix 1 to the report and in summary showed that 48% of people surveyed

were in support of the public conveniences closing at 5pm in the winter and 6pm in the summer; 36% supported an 8pm closure with only 16% agreeing that they should be available until 11pm. 49% also supported the early closure of the waiting room at 5/6pm with 42% requesting 8pm.

It was noted that no responses to the survey had been received from any of the transport operators. It was also noted that as complaints had been received by visitors using Peak Rail services, the Head of Environmental Services would follow this up with the relevant rail networks. Ward Members had also been consulted.

14% of the respondents considered themselves disabled. It was unclear from the results how many disabled residents would use the facilities after 6pm; however when the facility was not available, provision for disabled users was available on Causeway Lane.

Based on the findings of the survey it was recommended that the Clean and Green staff incorporated the locking up of these toilets and waiting room into their current schedule, resulting in the toilets at the bus station and waiting area being locked by 5.30pm in the summer and by 4.30pm in the winter prior to the toilets in Hall Leys Park being locked by 6pm in the summer and by 5pm in the winter. This provided a saving of £2,992 and reduced the opportunity for vandalism to take place in the evening.

It was moved by Councillor Lewis Rose OBE, seconded by Councillor Mike Ratcliffe and

RESOLVED That having regard to the results of the public consultation, the
(unanimously) opening hours of the public conveniences and waiting room be changed to before 5pm in the winter and before 6pm in the summer as outlined in 2.10 from 1st November 2016.

153/16 – WIRKSWORTH ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD RAILINGS REPAIRS

The Committee considered a report that outlined the proposed action to be taken following the rejection at Stage 1 in March 2016 of the bid of £950,000 submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for the restoration of the iron railings and stonework and the methodology for the repairs identified.

A capital sum of £50,000 was agreed in 2014 to support repairs to St Mary's churchyard railings at Wirksworth. Due to lack of resources no maintenance had been carried out for some considerable time. In light of this failed bid, the project team had spent time looking at a way forward with the funding available through the Council. Consultation had taken place with the Council's Conservation Officer and the Wirksworth Civic Society project group to develop the ideas. Advice had also been sought from a specialist in restoration work.

The estimate for the full capital repairs was in the region of £500,000; however only £49,000 remained available within the capital programme for this project. Following advice from a specialist that the lack of inappropriate painting in the past may have helped preserve the railings by not trapping water behind the paint and therefore accelerating deterioration, it was proposed that the painting of the railings was the lowest priority for the repairs and that any paint that was flaking be removed to reduce future water traps. Thus, the main repair works were the targeted repair of three areas to show visible improvements, to brush down the loose paint, to replace one stone from the supporting wall, to remove vegetation from stones and

treat with biocide to prevent further growth, to carry out repairs to the spilt stones on the plinth, and to undertake repairs to some supporting stays.

It was recommended that a specification for future painting should be developed as part of the repair project so this could be used by the Council, or volunteers, to undertake an appropriate painting process in the future. This specification should be used to ensure the correct painting standard was achieved so no further degradation took place.

This was a comprehensive project that had been drawn up with strong community involvement in the project through the Wirksworth Civic Society, promoted through social media and other means to attract community interest in the railings. The Head of Environmental Services advised that a tender would be prepared with a view to completing the work next summer. She agreed to provide a copy of the plan and work schedule to Wirksworth Civic Society and Councillors Mike and Irene Ratcliffe, as Ward Members.

Consultation on the project and the methods to be used would be undertaken with the Council's Conservation Officer and Historic England, and permission would be required from the Diocese. It was possible that listed building consent may be required with regard to the material proposed for the uprights.

It was moved by Councillor Mike Ratcliffe, seconded by Councillor Lewis Rose OBE and

RESOLVED That the repairs to the iron railings and stonework at St Mary's
(unanimously) churchyard be undertaken as proposed within the report using the committed capital funding.

154/16 – FLY TIPPING – FIXED PENALTY NOTICES

The Committee considered a report that summarised a new enforcement power enabling the issuing of fixed penalty notices for the offence of unauthorised deposit of waste on land (fly tipping). A scheme of delegation for the issuing of fixed penalty notices was recommended as were standard amounts for the penalties.

In May 2016 Government announced the introduction of a new sanction of a fixed penalty for fly tipping offences, intended to give local authorities another tool to deal with low level fly tipping offences whilst leaving the option of Court action open for major incidents. Government had suggested maximum and minimum levels of penalty, along with a default level and a discounted penalty for early payment. These levels were set out in paragraph 2.2 of the report, and it was suggested that Derbyshire Dales District Council adopt the default penalty of £200, along with the discounted penalty of £120 where payment was made within 10 days of the issue of the fixed penalty notice.

In order to enable this provision to work effectively and efficiently it would be necessary for officers to obtain delegated authority to issue the fixed penalty notices, as set out in the report.

The Head of Regulatory Services agreed to provide information on the different categories of fly tipping based on size, as well as updated figures on whether there had been an increase in fly tipping following a reduction in the number of bring sites. He agreed to forward to Committee Members a figure indicating the number of cases actually prosecuted.

It was moved by Councillor Albert Catt, seconded by Councillor Garry Purdy and

RESOLVED
(unanimously)

1. That the District Council adopts a fixed penalty of £200 as standard for fly tipping offences, with a discounted level of £120 where payment is made within 10 days;
2. That the scheme of delegation detailed at paragraph 2.5 of this report is adopted.

155/16 – LEISURE SERVICES REVIEW – UPDATE

The Committee considered a report on the progress of the Leisure Service review.

The Leisure Service review was split into two phases: the first to identify operational improvement and efficiencies and the suggested adjustments from this phase of the review were presented to Members in 2014 and implemented in 2015. The second phase of the review included numerous visits and discussions with other Local Authorities to help identify alternative models for delivering the Leisure Service in the longer term which helped in reducing costs.

Given the amount of work required in considering the feasibility of each option (see para 1.3 of the report), Members were asked to provide a steer as to which option(s) they considered most appropriate, as listed below:

Options	Leisure Centre	Sports Development
One	In-house	In-house
Two	Outsourced	In-house
Three	Outsourced	Outsourced
Four	New NPDO	New NPDO
Five	Retain: Arc & Ashbourne CAT: Bakewell & Wirksworth	In-house

It was agreed that Options 2 and 5 were the most appropriate options, and that further information should be gathered and presented on the viability of each model.

Work was now underway with FMG Consulting to provide greater detail on the financial and service benefits of options 2 and 5 using current year-end figures, as well as exploratory work on the possibility of Community Asset Transfers for Bakewell Swimming Pool and Wirksworth Leisure Centre. This information would be presented to Members by the end of the year, and it was agreed at the Community and Environment Committee on 2 June that regular updates be provided to the Committee throughout review.

Relevant Officers from the District Council met with FMG Consulting on Friday 12 August to discuss progress so far, as outlined in the report. Soft market testing had commenced through means of a questionnaire. This information was due to be returned to FMG in September and would form part of the final report, which would be presented to Committee thereafter.

Appendix One to the report outlined the work plan and timescales for Officers and the Council's consultants. Currently, with the exception of final discussions with external parties, work was on track.

It was moved by Councillor Mike Ratcliffe, seconded by Councillor Lewis Rose OBE and

RESOLVED That the report is noted
(unanimously)

157/16 – EVENTS HUB UPDATE AND ACTION PLAN FOR 2016/17

The Committee considered a report updating the work of the Events Hub and work plan for 2016/17.

The Events Hub's terms of reference were set out in the report, and the Hub comprised employee representatives from across the organisation with an involvement in event matters. Councillor Helen Froggatt had recently been appointed as Member Representative to work alongside the Hub.

A review of the Action Plan was tabled in the report.

It was moved by Councillor Albert Catt, seconded by Councillor Steve Flitter and

RESOLVED 1. That the report is noted
(unanimously) 2. That the action plan is endorsed and progress reported on an annual basis.

158/16 – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT HUB UPDATE AND ACTION PLAN

The Committee considered a report on the work of the Community Engagement Hub and its current action plan.

The Community Engagement Hub's terms of reference were set out in the report. The Hub comprised employee representatives whose work areas included an element of community engagement. Councillor Colin Swindell had recently been appointed as Member Representative to work alongside the Hub and would attend his first meeting in early September.

An update was presented in the report and it was noted that Matlock Canoe Club was to provide information regarding the community asset transfer of Artist Corner Toilets. Informal planning advice had been provided to a plan the club had developed, which was now being used to refine their designs. Members expressed concerns over single club involvement which may lead to exclusive use; however, any plans considered feasible would in the first instance be reported to the local Ward Members for opinion.

During 2016, the Hub had conducted a review of the Community Area Forums and a number of recommendations were approved and implemented for the forums during July and August. The Hub would review the outcome of these forums and provide further feedback to the Forum Coordination Group and CLT in due course.

A review of the Hub's action plan was tabled in the report.

It was moved by Councillor Lewis Rose OBE, seconded by Councillor Colin Swindell and

RESOLVED
(unanimously)

1. That the report is noted
2. That the action plan is endorsed and progress reported on an annual basis.

159/16 – MATLOCK BATH ILLUMINATIONS: UPDATE

Councillor Colin Swindell left the meeting at 7.37pm during discussion of this item.

The Committee considered a report that set out the progress of Matlock Bath Illuminations event.

It was noted that this event broke even for the first time recently, followed by a surplus of £12,000 in 2014, which Members approved for reinvestment to help further improve the event including helping to support changes to the entertainment programme, improve the lighting display and introduce fast-tracking ticketing. As a result, the event reached a record profit of £38,000 in 2015 (see appendix one to the report).

At last year's Illuminations Liaison Meeting, it was suggested that market stalls could be introduced where possible, along the pavements leading up to the entrance to Derwent Gardens. This proposal was currently out to consultation.

The introduction of a bar inside the event was also being considered by the relevant bodies and if approved would be advertised and open to all for tender. Alternatively, it was suggested that the District Council run the bar themselves.

It was noted that Peak FM were again involved in promoting the event and helping with both the Opening Night and the last night, which was to be a Halloween themed evening.

It was moved by Councillor Lewis Rose OBE, seconded by Councillor Richard Bright and

RESOLVED
(unanimously)

1. That the work undertaken, progress and direction of the event be noted;
2. That the introduction of market stalls along the pavements leading up to the entrance to Derwent Gardens be postponed until next year, pending further monitoring and consultation;
3. That delegated authority is given to the Head of Community Development to arrange for the District Council to provide and run a temporary bar during the event.

160/16 – URGENT REPORT – TENDER FOR WASTE COMPACTING RECEPTACLES

The Committee considered a report which clarified, for commercial reasons, a tender specification for waste compacting receptacles which the Council report of 30th June 2016

specifically referred to as the “Big Belly” product. In line with the Council decision a tender was issued for procurement of Solar Powered waste compacting receptacles.

Following the release of the open tender, questions were raised about the tender and the precluding of other products with increased capacity on the market. As the Council report made specific reference to the Big Belly bins, clarification was sought from the Council on the queries raised. Concerns were also raised whether other products would be considered in light of the narrow specification. The tender had been re-drafted and the specification had been revised accordingly so that similar products were not precluded from bidding on the tender.

The Council would run a completely open tendering process for the waste compacting receptacles and would consider any products that met the specification.

It was moved by Councillor Lewis Rose OBE, seconded by Councillor Albert Catt and

RESOLVED
(unanimously)

1. That the tender is redrafted to provide clarity to the tender specification for waste compacting receptacles as the Council report of 30th June 2016 specifically referred to the “Big Belly” product.
2. That the Council runs a completely open tendering process for the waste compacting receptacles and will consider any products that meet the specification.

MEETING CLOSED 7.59PM

CHAIRMAN