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## **COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of a Meeting held on Thursday 16 March 2017 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Matlock at 6.00 pm.**

### **PRESENT**

Councillor Joanne Wild - In the Chair

Councillors Jennifer Bower, Sue Bull, Albert Catt, Ann Elliott, Steve Flitter, Tony Morley, Joyce Pawley, Mike Ratcliffe, Lewis Rose OBE, Andrew Statham and Colin Swindell.

Paul Wilson (Corporate Director), Sandra Lamb (Head of Corporate Services), Steve Capes (Head of Regeneration and Policy), Robert Cogings (Head of Housing), Keith Postlethwaite (Parks and Street Scene Manager), Ashley Watts (Head of Community Development), Rob Wilks (Community Development & Wellbeing Officer), Nicola Goodwin (Community Events Officer) and Jackie Cullen (Committee Assistant).

2 members of the public.

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jason Atkin, Martin Burfoot, Vicky Massey-Bloodworth and Philippa Tilbrook. Councillor Steve Flitter attended as Substitute Member.

### **422/16 - MINUTES**

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

### **RESOLVED**

(unanimously)

That the minutes of the meetings of the Community & Environment Committee held on 12 January 2017 and 23 February 2017 be approved as a correct record.

The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

## **423/16 – INTERESTS**

Councillor Steve Flitter declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 6 – Hurst Farm Regeneration Bid as he was a founder Member of the Group (and potentially a Trustee); Robert Cogings declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 7 – Community Led Housing Fund as the outcome may affect his partner's employment; and Councillor Mike Ratcliffe declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 7 as he was a Member of the Steering Group (and potentially a Trustee) for the Wirksworth Community Land Trust.

## **424/16 – QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO RULE OF PROCEDURE NUMBER 15**

**Councillor Mike Ratcliffe asked the following question of Councillor Joanne Wild, Chair of the Community and Environment Committee:**

*“Like many councillors and residents I am annoyed and frustrated in equal measure, that despite the best efforts of the Environmental Health team using poster campaigns and legislation to combat dog fouling, the amount of mess in our public spaces remains at a high level.*

*The majority of dog owners act responsibly and it is to be hoped that the current Dog Selfie campaign will spread this positive message and remind people of the Public Space Protection Orders. However on the negative side, we have yet, to my knowledge, to have a successful prosecution, whilst the impact of this ant-social behaviour upon civic pride and public health is constantly prioritised in community consultations.*

*Would you agree that a different and perhaps more creative approach similar to that proposed by Liverpool City Council would be worth a trialling in Derbyshire Dales with its attendant publicity and media message? The intention would be to offer exemption from council tax to anyone who provides evidence of dog owners failing to clean up their pet's mess. This provision of tip offs, photos or video evidence leading to criminal conviction of irresponsible dog owners, who can be fined up to £1,000, would offset the cost of the scheme.”*

Councillor Wild gave the following response:

“I am aware of the statement made by the Mayor of Liverpool last month, in which he has suggested introducing a scheme whereby residents might be refunded the year's Council Tax for whistleblowing on dog owners who fail to clean up after their dog, where such information leads to successful criminal prosecution. It was suggested by the Mayor that such a scheme could be cost neutral, in that the maximum fine of £1,000 would cover the loss of income to the Council.

By way of further background, any information put forward by a resident must be detailed and further corroborated with an investigation by an officer (or officers) of the Council. Furthermore, the resident providing information must also be prepared to give evidence at a court should the matter progress to a hearing, though it is more likely that offenders will opt to avoid such punitive action by paying a fixed penalty of £75. There is a risk that such a scheme might not be cost neutral as the cost of refunding council tax for a year could amount to around £3,500 (for the highest council tax band in Liverpool and Derbyshire Dales, depending on the parish).

The District Council's current approach is to raise awareness of the nuisance of dog fouling and to encourage communities to work with the Council voluntarily in tackling the problem. Thankfully, unlike Liverpool, the Derbyshire Dales does not have a significant problem with dog fouling and its residents are, in the main, already keen to help us identify the perpetrators. The Council's officers in Environmental Services are aware of a small number of recurring problem areas and are directing our resources accordingly."

### **Supplementary comment from Councillor Ratcliffe:**

Cllr Ratcliffe thanked Cllr Wild for her response and requested a hard copy in due course. Cllr Ratcliffe reiterated the need for more bins and proactivity by the Council in order to address residents' concerns. Cllr Ratcliffe asked that an evaluation and considered approach be given to his request, though he acknowledged that the Derbyshire Dales was not a duplicate of the situation in Liverpool, as they had more resources. He felt, however, that the request deserved further serious consideration.

### **425/16 – HURST FARM REGENERATION BID**

The Committee considered a report on a recent bid to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) for regeneration funding made in relation to Hurst Farm, Matlock.

An expression of interest was submitted by Derbyshire Dales District Council to be part of an ambitious estates regeneration programme with 100 estates from around the country; the focus of this EOI being Hurst Farm Estate. A stakeholder meeting was held at the Social Club on Hurst Farm Estate on 21st September 2016, attended by local agencies and residents of the estate, and the ideas outlined in Appendix 1 to the report were based on the discussions held at this meeting.

In December 2016 DCLG set out their strategy and funding plans to deliver the estate regeneration programme, as set out in the report. However, the deadline for submission of bids was then brought forward by two months which meant that Members were unable to give approval for the bid before it was submitted. Instead, Cllr Wild as Chair of the Community and Environment Committee was briefed on the bid and gave her approval for the bid to proceed provided a retrospective report was brought to a subsequent committee.

The District Council had made a bid for £100,000 which would be used to fund a two year Regeneration Project Officer and spot purchasing of specialist consultancy services. To aid the bid and show a commitment to the programme it was recommended that £21,525 be allocated by the District Council, to be resourced from the Revenue Grants Unapplied Reserve at no cost to the General Fund. Furthermore, Waterloo Housing Group had made a bid of £80,000 to the Enabling fund in order to meet the cost of feasibility studies, and had offered in kind support linked to the development and finance skills available within their group structure. These bids were submitted on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017 and it was anticipated that bid assessments would take around 4 weeks with sign-off by the Housing Minister. No further information was available at the time of the meeting, but Officers were hoping to hear by the end of the month whether the bid had been successful.

It was moved by Councillor Jennifer Bower, seconded by Councillor Mike Ratcliffe and

**RESOLVED** (unanimously) 1. That the submission of a Capacity Building Fund bid to the Department for Communities and Local Government is noted.

2. That £21,525 be allocated as a contribution towards the regeneration project from the Revenue Grants Unapplied reserve.

#### **426/16 – COMMUNITY LED HOUSING FUND**

The Committee considered a report on community led housing that set out the details of a recent bid to the Department for Communities and Local Government for funding to deliver a community led housing programme. The report also sought to establish a framework for allocating resources consistent with government guidance.

The Government's new funding programme for Local Authorities to support community led housing developments allocated £60m to the 150 Councils with the highest concentrations of 2nd homes and high house price to income ratios. The Derbyshire Dales' share of the programme was £383,509. Community led housing was a small but growing element of local and national housing supply, and the District Council had had some success supporting community groups to build homes for local people, as outlined in the report.

The first payment of the funding from DCLG of £191,755 had been received. The remaining 50% would be paid once DCLG had accepted the Council's summary of spending plans, for which the deadline for completion was the 10th March. This meant that Members were unable to give approval for the bid before it was submitted. Instead, Cllr Wild as Chair of the Community and Environment Committee was briefed on the bid and gave her approval for the bid to proceed provided a retrospective report was brought to a subsequent committee. Attached at Appendix 1 to the report was a completed draft of the form.

Other forms of community led housing were outlined in the report, including Community Land Trusts (CLTs). In summary the proposal was to establish a district wide Community Land Trust – Dales CLT - capable of borrowing development funds to deliver affordable homes including the purchase of s106 units across the district. The funding proposals were detailed in the report.

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

#### **RESOLVED**

(unanimously)

1. That approval is given to commence activities detailed in the report that will lead to delivery of a community led housing programme for the Derbyshire Dales and,
2. That the funding proposals outlined in the report are approved.

#### **427/16 – FUTURE OF WASTE AND RECYCLING COMMUNITY FUND**

The Committee considered a report that sought approval to cease the Waste & Recycling Community Fund from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017.

The Waste & Recycling Collection Services Contract was outlined in the report, together with details of the Waste & Recycling Community Fund, launched in 2014. Since then, 14 Community Fund Grants had been awarded, totalling £7,783, as shown in Appendix 1 to the report. Furthermore, a total of £2,850 Community Fund Residents Rewards had been given to residents since the scheme began in 2014, as tabled in the report. The aim of the reward was

to encourage residents to participate in the scheme and achieve a recycling target of 55%. However, this target was currently being exceeded at 56% (2015/16) and participation in recycling across the District was high. It was recommended that both elements of the Waste and Recycling Community Fund cease from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 and that the overall saving of £3,600 be noted.

It was moved by Councillor Tony Morley seconded by Councillor Joyce Pawley and

- RESOLVED**  
(unanimously)
- 1) That both elements of the Waste & Recycling Community Fund be stopped from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017
  - 2) That the saving of £3,600 be noted

#### **428/16 – BURIALS REVIEW**

The Committee considered a report that sought to outline existing provision at active burials grounds across the District and proposed an option to acquire additional land to provide future burial provision for up to 100 years.

A review of burial provision across the district was agreed in 2016, as outlined in the report. It was noted that there was no statutory requirement to provide new burial grounds; however, under Section 214 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council had the power to provide and maintain cemeteries whether in or outside their area.

The review team mapped existing provision across the district (alternative providers), as detailed in the report.

A change of policy was proposed regarding the ability for families to reserve grave spaces for future burials through the advance purchase of Deeds for Exclusive Right of Burial, as set out in the report.

It was moved by Councillor Albert Catt, seconded by Councillor Mike Ratcliffe and

- RESOLVED**  
(unanimously)
1. That future provision for the District be focussed at the District Council's six sites (Bakewell, Steeple Arch, Darley Dale, Middleton, Brailsford and Ashbourne) and that any future investment in Parish sites ceases;
  2. That the business case outlined in this report be referred to Council in June 2017, to be considered for funding alongside other capital scheme business cases through the Capital Programme to bring additional areas of land into use for both graves and casket burials at both Darley Dale and Bakewell Cemetery. An estimated sum of approximately £44,000 is needed to undertake this work;
  3. That the possibility of purchasing and developing land in private ownership adjacent to Darley Dale and Bakewell Cemetery is investigated
  4. That the use of existing funds, already agreed within the existing

Capital Programme, being used as planned to develop Steeple Arch Cemetery, Wirksworth be noted;

5. That non-grave casket burials be diverted from Middleton by Wirksworth to Steeple Arch when the site is fully occupied in approximately 3 years;
6. That the future options available at Ashbourne Cemetery and adequate supply at Brailsford for many years be noted;
7. That the policy relating to the advance purchase of Deeds for Exclusive Right of Burial be revised as described in section 1.25 of this report, to limit such advance purchase to those instances where a double family plot is requested at the time where burial arrangements are being made.

#### **429/16 – CAR PARKS INFRASTRUCTURE – CAPITAL WORKS**

The Committee considered a report that sought approval, subject to funding being approved at Council, for capital works to be undertaken to improve the infrastructure of car parks at Fishpond Meadows, Ashbourne, the Agricultural Centre, Bakewell and Monsal Head.

The business case for the car parks was set out in the report. The estimated cost of the works to Fishpond Meadows was £25,000; to the Agricultural Centre £10,000, and to the Monsal Head car park £10,500.

It was moved by Councillor Lewis Rose OBE seconded by Councillor Jennifer Bower and

**RESOLVED**  
(unanimously)

1. That the business case outlined in this report be referred to Council in June 2017, to be considered for funding alongside other capital scheme business cases and if approved recommendations 2, 3 and 4 below be implemented.
2. That works be carried out to upgrade drainage and Golpla geosynthetic grass reinforcement system at Fishpond Meadow Overspill Car Park, Ashbourne,
3. That works be carried out to upgrade areas of base course tarmac at the Agricultural Business Centre, Bakewell,
4. That works be carried out to upgrade tarmac parking areas and associated landscaping at Monsal Head Visitor car park, and to introduce dedicated Blue Badge bays, in line with recent accessibility audit recommendations.

#### **430/16 – IMPLEMENTATION OF PARKING POLICY 2013 – OFF-STREET PARKING PLACES AMENDMENT (NO. 2) ORDER 2017**

The Committee considered a report of the proposed amendments to the Off-Street parking Places Order in relation to the introduction of daily charges for Blue Badge holders, arising from the review of parking policy undertaken in 2013.

A report was presented to a meeting of this committee on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017, which recommended that charges for Blue Badge parking be introduced from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017. In introducing such changes, there was a requirement to amend the current Off Street Parking Places Order, the procedure for which was set out in the report.

General details of the proposed Amendment to the Order were published in an advert in the Derbyshire Times on 26th January 2017. Copies of the text of the newspaper notice were put up at each of the car parks affected by the Order. A copy of the draft Amendment Order, together with copies of the original Order and Amendment (No.1) Order were deposited at the Town Hall, Bank Road, Matlock.

Representations received were listed in the report, together with the Officer's response. In light of these it was recommended that the proposed Amendment Order, detailed in the appendix attached to the report, be made without further modification.

It was moved by Councillor Albert Catt, seconded by Councillor Mike Ratcliffe and

**RESOLVED** That the Off-Street Parking Places (Amendment No2) Order 2017, as  
(unanimously) described within the appendix to the report, be approved and implemented in accordance with section 35 and Part III of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and the Local Authority Traffic Orders (Procedure)(England and Wales) Regulations 1996.

#### **431/16 – REVIEW OF CAR PARKING POLICY 2017**

The Committee considered a report that proposed a review of the Council's current car parking policy and sought Member agreement for the scope and timescale for a review to be undertaken.

The Council's current Car Parking Policy was last reviewed in 2013, resulting in a number of recommendations which had been introduced during the intervening 4 years leading up to this report. The introduction of daily charges for Blue Badge holders, which is included in a separate report to this committee, was the last significant change to be brought about by that review. However, there remained a number of matters which now required further consideration, as set out in the report.

It was therefore proposed that as part of the review process, consultation and user engagement be undertaken as set out in the report, and that the review be completed by October 2017 with any revisions to Car Parking Policy being introduced with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018.

It was moved by Councillor Lewis Rose OBE, seconded by Councillor Joyce Pawley and

**RESOLVED** 1. That a review of the Council's Car Parking Policy be undertaken  
(unanimously) in accordance with the terms of reference outlined at Section 2 of the report.

2. That the review of the Car Parking Policy be completed by 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017 and that the recommendations of the review be reported to a future meeting of this Committee.

## **432/16 – ASHBOURNE SKATE PARK – UPDATING REPORT**

The Committee received a report on progress towards a new skate park facility in Ashbourne and to considered approval of the use of an area in Ashbourne Recreation Ground for a skate park, subject to planning and other statutory consents and the agreement of a lease with Skate Ashbourne.

Following closure of the skate park in 2014, the Community & Environment Committee approved a community consultation exercise, the results of which were reported to Council on 24 September 2015 and showed that 57% of participants voted to relocate the Skate Park.

The seven suggested sites were evaluated, and the Community & Environment Committee, on 17 March 2016, considered the Fishpond Meadow within Ashbourne Recreation Ground, as the most suitable site. This was approved by Members for development as a skate park.

As there was no financial provision within the District Council's budget for this scheme it was proposed that a working group be set up to assist with fundraising. A public meeting was held on 13 June 2016 to gauge interest for a community led skate park project, attended by over 60 people. A Steering Group known as 'Skate Ashbourne' had been established, which called the facility 'Skate Side'. This was supported by Derbyshire Dales Council for Voluntary Services and Ashbourne Town Council as well as the District Council. Skate Ashbourne was working hard to raise its profile, including a feature in the recent edition of Dales Matters. Skate Ashbourne was looking for funding from local business sponsors, funding grants, fundraising events and donations.

In its consideration of the Fishpond Meadow site offered, Skate Ashbourne raised some concerns about the suitability of the site. Estimated costs to prepare this parcel of land may prove prohibitive so the group suggested that the viability of two further sites be explored – one in the ownership of the District Council, the other not. Some site investigations took place, including a site visit by a skate park design expert who did not rule out any of the sites, although his and Skate Ashbourne's preferred option was a site in Ashbourne Recreation Ground adjacent to and above the tennis courts. An evaluation of the site had taken place, the results of which were attached as an appendix to the report, along with a site plan, and approval was sought to take this site forward as the preferred option. Skate Ashbourne had obtained cost estimates in the region of £125,000 to develop this site as a skate park for which external funding would have to be secured with support from its partners.

It was therefore recommended that the District Council gave in principle agreement to the use of this site for a skate park, subject to planning and other statutory consents, and that discussions took place with Skate Ashbourne to agree terms for a suitable lease agreement that would allow them to secure external funding for the project and would make them responsible for the development and future maintenance of the site.

It was moved by Councillor Sue Bull, seconded by Councillor Albert Catt and

**RESOLVED**  
(unanimously)

1. That the update and continued support by officers to the project is noted.
2. That in principle agreement be given to the use of the site, as outlined in Appendix A to the report, for a skate park, subject to

planning and other statutory consents and that discussions take place with Skate Ashbourne to agree terms for a suitable lease agreement, as outlined in paragraph 3 of the report.

### 433/16 – MATLOCK BATH ILLUMINATIONS REVIEW

The Committee considered a report that detailed the outturn of the 2016 event and sought agreement to the general format of the 2017 event.

In 2016 the event took place from Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September to Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October, with firework displays every Saturday, except for Opening Night. Details were set out in the report, including the overall position on income at the time of writing.

An extensive post event consultation exercise was undertaken to gauge feedback on the success of the event. The results were summarised in Appendix 1 to the report. Taking account of this feedback, the Working Group’s overall recommendations for the 2017 event were tabled in the report, together with the recommended pricing structure, as follows:

Saturday		Sunday	
On-the night	£7.50	On-the-night	£6.50
Advanced/Online/Public Transport	£5.50	Advanced/Online/Public Transport	£4.50
Concession (on-the-night)	£6.50	Concession (on-the-night)	£5.50
Concession (Advanced/Online)	£4.50	Concession (Advanced/Online)	£3.50
Child (<16yrs)	FREE	Child (<16yrs)	FREE

It was noted that a sponsorship package would be created to bring more income into the event, and it was suggested that the Events Team increased the current number and manner of businesses approached to help support the event. It was also recommended that those businesses/organisations were acknowledged more widely and were offered the chance to sponsor more tangible event improvements (i.e. lights, equipment, signage, etc.).

It was recommended that the Head of Community Development be given delegated authority to make operational decisions in relation to the staging of the 2017 event in consultation with the Working Group in order to deal with any issues that may arise.

For the past 3 years the Community Events Officer had been assisted with the organisation of the event by the recently formed Events Team. However, it was proposed that a Working Group be formed to discuss future plans for the event, as outlined in the report.

Further recommendations for changes to the operation of the event were detailed in the report, including a recommendation to reduce the number of tickets sold for Saturday nights and an increase in the number of staff dealing with pedlars, by

utilising a multi-agency approach, with officers from Derbyshire Dales District Council working with Trading Standards and the Police.

It was noted that 2017 would be the 120<sup>th</sup> year of the Matlock Bath Illuminations and Geoff Stevens' 50<sup>th</sup> year involved in the event. There would be a general theme celebrating this, and Mr Stevens would be invited to comper the event and Mrs Stevens would be invited as his support.

It was moved by Councillor Lewis Rose OBE, seconded by Councillor Steve Flitter and

**RESOLVED**  
(unanimously)

1. That the achievements of the event in 2016 following the review are noted.
2. That approval is given for the fees and charges structure to be changed, as shown in 2.11 of the report.
3. That the number of tickets sold on Saturdays is restricted to 6,000.
4. That sponsorship is sought, by the Community Events Officer, for further investment into the event is noted.
5. That a working group is formed to help shape future events is noted.
6. That the Head of Community Development is given delegated authority to make operational decisions in relation to the staging of the 2017 event in consultation with the Working Group.
7. That approval is given to invite Mr G E M Stevens MBE to comper the 2017 event. 2017 is his 50<sup>th</sup> year involved with the Illuminations and this should be recognised.
8. That approval is given to invite Mrs Stevens as Mr Stevens' support.

**434/16 – STRATEGY FOR EVENTS ON DISTRICT COUNCIL LAND**

The Committee considered a report that sought approval of the Strategy for Events on District Council Land and the fees & charges associated with the use of the land.

The strategy was intended to help event organisers to run quality events, for people of all ages in the towns and villages of the Derbyshire Dales. Its main objectives were listed in the report, and the detailed draft Strategy was attached as Appendix 1 to the report. The District Council owned and managed numerous areas of land in the District and currently facilitated a significant number of varying events within these areas each year. The strategy would detail District Council goals in facilitating the staging of events, and would also outline what was required and expected of event organisers when planning an event on District Council land.

Councillor Mrs Froggatt, as the Member representative on the Events Hub, commented as follows:

*“I believe it is important to support this report because events are very important to the Derbyshire Dales, bringing in many tourists to the area and jobs for the residents. These events must be maintained to a very high standard both for people's enjoyment and for safety. We have only to look at the Matlock Bath Illuminations to see how much effort and hard work makes a quality event.”*

It was moved by Councillor Jennifer Bower, seconded by Councillor Joyce Pawley and

- RESOLVED**  
(unanimously)
1. That the strategy be approved and implemented from 1st April 2017.
  2. That the Fees & Charges recommended in the strategy are approved and implemented from 1st April 2017.
  3. That the Head of Community Development be delegated authority to approve applications for events on Council owned land in accordance with the Events Strategy and approved schedule of fees.
  4. That the Corporate Director be delegated authority to act in the absence of the primary contact or in the event of a conflict of interest

#### **435/16 – HALL LEYS PARK, MATLOCK – INSTALLATION OF A MUGA**

The Committee considered a report on proposals to convert the single Tennis Court on Hall Leys Park into a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA).

The District Council had for some time been considering improving recreational facilities in Hall Leys Park and in particular converting the tennis courts into more flexible space. Recently opportunities to access external funding had become available, resulting in a possibility to deliver this proposed project for the single tennis court.

A project steering group had been established to assess the feasibility of converting the existing single tennis court area into a MUGA and also identify the likely costs involved - estimated to be circa £18,000. Part funding arrangements were outlined in the report.

It was felt that introducing a MUGA to Hall Leys Park would encourage residents and visitors to participate in sport more regularly, and in particular, encourage those who may not necessarily want to use a leisure centre or be part of an organised sports club. Furthermore, Sports Development and the Community Safety Team would utilise the MUGA as a venue for evening activities, as there was currently no suitable venue in Matlock Town Centre. Activities would aim to engage young people (aged 11-25) in positive activities and to help divert them away from anti-social behaviour. Arc Leisure, Matlock would also use the facility as a venue for school holiday activities such as basketball, football, netball, tennis and hockey

The proposed project management and ongoing maintenance proposals were set out in the report.

It was moved by Councillor Steve Flitter, seconded by Councillor Mike Ratcliffe and

- RESOLVED**  
(unanimously)
- That the report is noted.

#### **436/16 – REVIEW OF ASHBOURNE AND WIRKSWORTH STALL MARKETS**

The Committee considered a report on the review of the Ashbourne and Wirksworth stall markets; its findings and recommendations.

An amendment was made to Recommendations 1 and 2 in the report: 1 September 2017 should read 30 September 2017. Cllr Lewis Rose OBE proposed an additional Recommendation, as follows:-

5. That the Head of Community Development be given delegated authority to formulate a process for a request to be made to officially re-name 'Civic Square' in Ashbourne to 'Shrovetide Wharf'.

A further amendment was noted – Wirksworth market was held on a Tuesday, and not Wednesday as stated in the report.

The District Council had set a target in its Corporate Plan 2017/18 to increase overall stall occupancy at District Council markets to 70%. It was currently running at an average of 48%, with Ashbourne at 2% (Thursday) and 53% (Saturday), Wirksworth at 48% and Bakewell at 89%, with Ashbourne and Wirksworth stall markets currently making a loss as set out in the report.

A review of the Stall Markets and their sustainability was completed in 2011/2012, its purpose being to evaluate the viability of the District Council's Stall Markets and make recommendations for their future operation and management. As a result, one of the recommendations approved at the Partnership & Regeneration Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2012 was "that Ashbourne Thursday market be closed and that priority is given to existing licensed traders only to occupy vacant stalls at other market locations in the District." However, since this time several improvements had been made, as identified in the report.

The decision to temporarily close the Ashbourne Thursday market from January to April followed a consultation by Derbyshire Dales District Council with Ashbourne Town Council, stall holders, residents and local businesses, and the District Council announced last year that it intended to move the Thursday market to a new trial location on the land known locally as Civic Square, which had been levelled in preparation to accommodate stalls and other events.

It was recommended that District Council Officers spoke to Ashbourne Town Council and the current stall erectors about the options for the market and the possibility of it closing should it not improve. In the meantime, the market was due to re-open on 6th April 2017 and continue for six months to see if there was an increase in stallholders. If the situation had not improved by September, then consultation would start to permanently close the Thursday market by the end of December 2017.

With regard to the Ashbourne Saturday market, it was recommended that starting in May, a period of consultation should take place to consider the relocation to the area known locally as Civic Square. This would make the Market Place available for car parking and also support the introduction of a monthly artisan/specialist monthly market, without affecting the number of regular Saturday traders.

Wirksworth Market, which operated on a Tuesday, had been in decline over the past few years. The options would be discussed with Wirksworth Town Council and the current contracted stall erector. These discussions would start immediately, focusing on moving the market to a suitable location which supported a self-erect policy. In addition, Officers would consider the options for transferring the market to a community group, as there had been interest previously from members of the business community. If there was no interest in self-

erection of stalls and/or moving location from the stallholders, then consultation for closure of the market would start in September with a view to it closing at the end of December 2017.

Cllr Mike Ratcliffe asked about the possibility of the District Council making some funding available to Wirksworth Town Council to cover the costs of relocating the market into the proposed location. The Corporate Director advised that this was a Member decision, and recommended that the Town Council provide the Head of Community Development with their proposition, which would then be brought to the appropriate Committee.

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

**RESOLVED**  
(unanimously)

1. That consultation shall take place to seek representations regarding the proposal to permanently close the Ashbourne (Thursday) Market at the end of December 2017 should it not achieve an average of more than 65% occupancy between reopening in April and 30 September 2017;
2. That Ashbourne (Thursday) Market introduces a self-erect policy from 1 January 2018, should it achieve an average of more than 65% occupancy between reopening in April and 30 September 2017 or, following consultation, Members determine that the Market shall continue in operation;
3. That consultation shall take place to seek representations on the future of the Wirksworth Market as detailed in the report;
4. That Officers start consultation on the relocation of Ashbourne (Saturday) Market from the Market Square to the area known locally as Civic Square
5. That the Head of Community Development be given delegated authority to formulate a process for a request to be made to officially re-name 'Civic Square' to 'Shrovetide Wharf'.

#### **437/16 – HIGHWAYS AGENCY AGREEMENT – GULLY CLEANING CONTRACT**

The Committee considered a report advising that Derbyshire County Council were unable to provide any long term funding commitment to the Gully Cleansing Contract currently operated under the Highways Agency Agreement. In the financial interests of the District Council, the report recommended termination of the Gully Cleansing Contract by December 2017 and the cessation of a septic tank emptying service.

A written agreement, dating from the 1980s, currently related to the following services, which were discussed in detail in the report:

- Gully Cleansing - delivered in house by Clean and Green Team
- Flail Mowing - mixture of in-house and contractor
- Pedestrian Verge Mowing - delivered in house by Clean and Green Team
- Winter Maintenance - delivered in house by Clean and Green Team
- Weed Control - delivered by contractor twice a year

Given the District Council's current financial position as outlined to Council on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017, the Council could not take the risk of procuring two new gully vehicles for a period of at least 5 years without any certainty of funding from the County Council. It was therefore recommended

that the County Council be placed on notice that it was the District Council's intention to terminate the gully cleansing contract from December 2017 or at an earlier agreed date provided that this did not incur any financial penalties to the District Council.

As part of any decision to terminate the contract, there would be a need to formally consult with the two members of staff who currently delivered the service and the recognised Trade Unions, as outlined in the report.

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

**RESOLVED**  
(unanimously)

1. That authority be delegated to the Corporate Director to negotiate the termination of the Gully Cleansing Contract with Derbyshire County Council by December 2017 and agree revised financial terms for the remaining aspects of the Highways Agency Agreement.
2. That the District Council cease to provide a septic tank emptying service by December 2017 and that appropriate notice is provided to current customers.
3. That subject to recommendation 1 above, the District Council's Change Management Policy be applied to existing staff and appropriate consultation be undertaken with staff and the recognised Trade Unions.

**MEETING CLOSED 8.03PM**

**CHAIRMAN**