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## **COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

**Minutes of a Meeting held on Thursday 2 June 2016 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Matlock at 6.00 pm.**

**PRESENT** Councillor Joanne Wild - In the Chair

Councillors Albert Catt, Ann Elliott, Steve Flitter, Susan Hobson, Vicky Massey, Tony Morley, Joyce Pawley, Mike Ratcliffe, Andrew Statham, Jacquie Stevens, Colin Swindell and Philippa Tilbrook.

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

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jason Atkin, Sue Bull, Martin Burfoot and Lewis Rose, OBE. Councillors Steve Flitter, Susan Hobson and Jacquie Stevens attended as Substitute Members.

### **28/16 - MINUTES**

It was moved by Colin Swindell, seconded by Councillor Mike Ratcliffe and

**RESOLVED** That the minutes of the meeting of the Community & Environment Committee held on 17 March 2016 be approved as a correct record.  
(unanimously)

The Minutes were signed by the Chairman.

### **29/16 – INTERESTS**

Councillor Jacquie Stevens declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda item No. 11 – Derbyshire Law Centre, as a member of her immediate family was a trustee, an authorised signatory, a Board Member and a member of the Finance Committee of Derbyshire Citizens' Advice Bureau. Councillor Stevens advised that she would abstain from voting on this item.

### **30/16 – 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:**

*“In light of the recent significant discussion that took place between Members and officers of DDDC and members of the Wirksworth community and sports group representatives, will the Council now reassure my constituents that serious consideration will be given to the proposals for partnership working and integrated management as a realistic alternative to the apparent fixed options proposed in the Leisure Services Review.”*

Councillor Joanne Wild gave the following response:-

On the 14 January Members were presented with the options identified by FMG Consulting, as part of the ongoing Leisure Review. Following that, on 24 February Members were asked to provide a steer on their preferred option(s). Collectively, Options 2 and 5 were selected as appearing to give the Council the best return financially whilst maintaining service provision and Officers were asked to consider in greater detail the feasibility of these two management models. It was also requested that Officers report back to Members at the end of the year with their findings. As tonight’s report highlights, this work is still ongoing.

Members should be assured that a full and comprehensive consultation exercise will be undertaken on any preferred option, should there be one. However, until then the Council has to be given the opportunity to fully explore and appraise the two options that Members have asked Officers to pursue, given the number of discussions and amount of work that has already taken place to this point.

Should we find that after the consultation process no preferred option can agreed upon, then other options will be considered.

We acknowledge the strong partnership arrangement at Wirksworth, and the excellent joint working between the school and the Leisure Centre (along with local clubs) and it may be that the suggested ‘integrated management’ approach is something that should be explored further once the viability of the two preferred options has been explored.”

**Supplementary comment from Councillor Ratcliffe:**

Councillor Ratcliffe thanked Councillor Wild for her response and requested a written copy for him to pass on to the community. Councillor Ratcliffe asked if pressure could be put on the Council to take an early flexible approach rather than waiting for an inevitable outcome from FMGC’s recommendations which would result in rejection. Therefore, putting aside the consultation regarding Options 2 and 5, what other detailed approach would the District Council be making to achieve a satisfactory outcome?

Councillor Wild replied that this had been covered in her previous response, and in the meantime the consultation would proceed as planned. Councillor Wild agreed to provide a written response to Councillor Ratcliffe.

**31/16 – LEISURE REVIEW – UPDATE**

The Committee considered a report that set out the progress with the review of Leisure Services, the scope of which was summarised in the report.

A Leisure Service review team was formed and the review was split into two phases: the first was to identify operational improvement and efficiencies, and the second was to consider the longer term management and delivery arrangements.

A report on the outcomes of the first stage of the review was considered by the Community Committee on 10 July 2014 and the main conclusions drawn by the review team were outlined in the report. Furthermore, after a successful tendering process, FMG Consulting Ltd was appointed to provide a detailed Business Options Appraisal, outlining the financial implications and feasibility of the alternative management options currently available, in support of the second phase of the review. The final Options Appraisal report was completed and provided in October last year highlighting five possible options, as tabled 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

After several months of review and consultation with management, staff and stakeholders, and given the District Council’s financial position, the preferred option to retain all four Leisure Centres and the Sports Development Team was considered as not sustainable. 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. The timeline for this work was outlined in Appendix 1 to the report. Details of the information to be presented to Members by the end of the year were set out in the report.

It was moved by Councillor Albert Catt, seconded by Councillor Jacquie Stevens and

**RESOLVED**  
(unanimously)

1. That the work undertaken, progress and direction of the review be noted;
2. That the District Council remains committed to pursuing a full viability appraisal of options 2 and 5 using external consultants, and that the findings be presented to the Committee in due course;
3. That the results of that report be used to tailor an appropriate consultation exercise in which to engage with stakeholders and residents of the Derbyshire Dales as a whole.

**32/16 – ESTATE REGENERATION PROGRAMME: EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

The Committee considered a report regarding the Government’s request for expressions of interest for an ambitious estates regeneration programme with 100 estates from around the country. £140m in loan funding had been set aside for partnerships and joint venture arrangements, and the Department for Communities and Local Government had made available resources to help develop ideas. Unfortunately the publication date of the government’s proposals and the Committee timetable did not allow sufficient time to bring a report to Committee prior to the submission of the EOI.

During the 1980s councils across the country accessed Government funding to reinstate many of the defective homes built following the second World War. In the Derbyshire Dales, estates in Matlock, Darley Dale and Ashbourne had received funding to improve the majority of the homes; however there remained an estimated 60 non-traditional, defective homes in the district. There was a need to establish a better understanding of the condition of the defective homes and the wishes of occupiers in developing any proposals.

The Government was seeking expressions of interest that would lead to estate regeneration proposals. The District Council submitted an Expression of Interest (EOI) to the Estate Regeneration programme through the Government's survey monkey online questionnaire. A copy of the EOI was attached at Appendix 1 to the report and it was noted that 'The Friends of Hurst Farm', Ward Members and leading Members had been consulted prior to submission of the EOI. The District Council's EOI had been acknowledged by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

Given the established Residents' Group in Matlock and the greater number of defective homes on the Hurst Farm estate, it was proposed to focus resources on Hurst Farm initially and further reports would be brought back to this Committee in order to keep the District Council fully informed of progress.

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

- RESOLVED**  
(unanimously)
1. That the District Council's Expression of Interest in the Estate Regeneration programme is noted.
  2. That a future report is brought back to Committee on progress with any potential regeneration programme.

### **33/16 – CONSULTATION ON A PROPOSAL TO CHARGE FOR REPLACEMENT WASTE CONTAINERS**

The Committee considered a report that sought approval to consult with Derbyshire Dales residents over the summer, on the subject of charging for replacement waste and recycling containers and the supply of black and compostable sacks, to feed into the review of existing policies.

As part of the Waste & Recycling Collection Contract an annual replacement cap fee was put in place for the replacement of different wheeled bins, recycling bin inserts and food caddies, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report. Financial information on replacement containers was attached as Appendix 2 to the report, and a breakdown of replacement containers (and where the cap had been exceeded) was tabled in Appendix 4 to the report. The Waste & Recycling Collection contract also agreed that Derbyshire Dales District Council would provide, free of charge, an annual supply of 52 black sacks and 44 compostable garden waste sacks to all residents unable to have a wheeled bin, the cost of which was outlined in the report. The waste contractor currently provided one roll of food waste caddy liners to each household per annum, free of charge. It was proposed that there would be no change to this and that this would continue for the remaining years of the contract.

With regard to containers, residents currently had to pay for any additional food waste caddy liners or compostable garden waste sacks above the annual supply; consultation with residents needed to be undertaken before changes could be properly considered any further.

If approved by Members, local consultation would be planned to take place over the summer for a period of 12 weeks. The consultation would include Ward Members, Parish and Town Councils and residents of the district. An electronic questionnaire had been developed, attached as appendix 3 to the report, and would be publicised as outlined in the report. It was recommended that a future report be presented to this committee by the end of the year, outlining the findings and any changes proposed.

The Head of Environmental Services was asked to take account of Members' concerns regarding who should bear the cost of replacement of damaged bins and their comments on the proposal to charge for replacement sacks.

It was moved by Councillor Albert Catt, seconded by Councillor Jacquie Stevens and

**RESOLVED**  
(unanimously)

1. That the consultation with Derbyshire Dales residents on the subject of charging for replacement containers is approved. (This includes all wheeled bins, recycling paper inserts and kerbside caddies);
2. That consultation on the provision of the annual supply of free black sacks and compostable garden waste sacks is also undertaken;
3. That a further report, to feed back the results of the public consultation and outline any policy changes, be brought back to this committee by the end of the year.

**34/16 – MATLOCK BUS STATION PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

Councillor Colin Swindell left the meeting at 7.12pm prior to discussion of this item.

The Committee considered a report that sought approval to consult for a period of six weeks on a proposal to change the opening hours of the public conveniences at Matlock Bus Station due to the rising cost of undertaking repairs caused by vandalism.

Currently the toilets were opened at around 7am by the Clean and Green Team and were left unattended throughout the day until they were closed by a security company at 11pm. However, many instances of vandalism and abuse of this facility had been reported, as outlined in the report, together with a number of serious issues reported connected to the Waiting Room. It was reported that the cost of the repairs undertaken since October was approximately £1,300.

One of the options proposed to help reduce the problem would be to change the locking time to 8pm; another option was for the Clean and Green staff involved in cleaning and locking the toilets to incorporate the locking up of these toilets into their current schedule. Furthermore, following recent incidents, the cost of providing a CCTV camera had been explored as a means of reducing the level of activity in this area if the toilets were to be left open until 11pm, the costs of which were set out in the report.

Consultation had taken place with Ward Members, and it was proposed that consultation over a period of six weeks on the proposal to close the toilets earlier be undertaken with the public, including users of the transport network. A survey had been developed for use on the website, attached as Appendix 1 to the report, to be publicised as set out in the report. In addition, a letter had been sent to the transport operators to seek their views. A further report on the findings of the consultation would be presented to this Committee in September.

It was noted that the suggestion of keeping the facilities open later to cover special events would be taken into consideration.

It was moved by Councillor Steve Flitter, seconded by Councillor Ann Elliott and

**RESOLVED** That consultation is carried out for a period of six weeks on a  
(unanimously) proposal to change the opening hours of the public conveniences (including waiting room) and that the findings of the consultation be reported back to the committee in September 2016.

### **35/16 – WASTE & RECYCLING COLLECTION CONTRACT CUSTOMER SATISFACTION**

The Committee considered a report on the results of the customer satisfaction surveys undertaken on performance of the Waste and Recycling services.

The Head of Environmental Services advised Members that the figure in the last paragraph on page 32 of the report should read 82,500 collections and not 33,095.

The Waste & Recycling Collection Contract specified that the contractor would undertake customer satisfaction surveys on behalf of the District Council, twice yearly for the life of the contract, as outlined in the report. The results of the surveys were positive, as detailed in the report, and showed high levels of customer satisfaction. The surveys would continue to be carried out twice yearly and future results would be reported to the Committee.

It was moved by Councillor Mike Ratcliffe, seconded by Councillor Vicky Massey and

**RESOLVED** 1. That the customer satisfaction results on performance of the  
(unanimously) contract achieved in 2014 and 2015 is noted.  
2. That future customer satisfaction results on performance of the services be reported to committee.

### **36/16 – DERBYSHIRE LAW CENTRE**

The Committee considered a report that set out a request for funding by the Derbyshire Law Centre to support their operation within the Derbyshire Dales.

The Head of Corporate Services advised Members that Amber Valley had not withdrawn its support, as indicated in paragraph 1.6 of the report, and Chesterfield Borough also assisted with funding the DLC.

In 2015, the District Council agreed a one off contribution of £10,000 towards the running costs of the organisation. A request for continued funding had now been received, and whilst the District Council did not operate a specific grant scheme to support this cause, should the Committee wish to fund the organisation, grant aid may be possible from the General Reserve.

In view of the decision taken to offer a one off commitment to the Law Centre, a grant was not recommended this year due to financial constraints.

It was moved by Councillor Tony Morley, seconded by Councillor Albert Catt and

**RESOLVED** That the request to grant aid Derbyshire Law Centre is refused.

**Voting:**

**For** 11

**Against:** 0

**Abstentions:** 1

**MEETING CLOSED 7.26PM**

**CHAIRMAN**