

HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL
Community Services Committee
2nd September 2019 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: K Wattingham Chairman
J Carroll
Y Farrell
S Goodchild
T McMahon
A Slough

Officers: Clare Evans Town Clerk
Louise Senior Head of Democratic Services

Public: 1

Apologies: C Copleston

10016 APOLOGIES & SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from Cllr Copleston.

10017 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

10018 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

10019 MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 24th June 2019.

Resolved: To confirm the minutes of the Community Services Committee meetings held on 24th June 2019 and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

10020 REPORT FROM GROUNDWORK

David Ramsay was in attendance at the meeting to update members on the youth work Groundwork had completed in Houghton Regis on behalf of Central Bedfordshire Council.

Members were advised that a workshop had been held at All Saints School, focussed on year 8. Since this session, the youth provision attendees had been polite and well mannered.

Members were advised that session attendance numbers were historically sporadic during the summer school closure but this summer had reached 24 / 25 on some days with a lot of positive involvement.

Members were advised that there had been a negative incident which had required police involvement, subsequently a ban had been placed on the young person involved, however support for the young person had also been offered.

Members were advised that the Central Bedfordshire Council Youth Provision budget for Groundwork had been reduced by 25%, members were advised that attempts were being made to retain as much consistency as practicable within the reduced budget.

Members suggested that members of the police force visit the youth provision to develop and build positive relationships within the community.

10021 HRTC YOUTH SERVICES

David Ramsay was in attendance at the meeting to update members on the youth work Groundwork had completed in Houghton Regis on behalf of HRTC in delivering the pop-up youth cafes.

Members were advised that the figures were at their best and had been in the range of 20+ with a high of 28 young people which created a good mix of different characters. Several planned activities had been enjoyed such as DJ Craig, a visit from Wrigglies and a trip to Pizza Hut.

It was suggested that if there were any funding available, the pavilion would benefit from refurbishment, particularly the kitchen which could be used for more community involvement i.e. taster sessions and cooking demonstrations.

Members suggested that grants were sought by Groundwork to aid the youth programme.

Resolved: To note the report.

10022 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING WORKING GROUPS AND CONSIDER ANY RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN

Events Working Group	5 th June and 10 th July 2019.
Combating Crime Working Group	22 nd May, 19 th June and 17 th July 2019.

**Resolved: To receive the Minutes detailed above and to approve the recommendations contained therein as follows;
To approve that the council seek to extend the Operation Hana contract with Bedfordshire Police on the same basis until 31st March 2020.**

10023 BUDGET REVIEW

Members received a report on the income and expenditure for Community Services Committee to date.

Members discussed the benefit of including predicted sponsorship monies within the budget, or whether it should be omitted.

Members discussed whether it be pertinent to seek sponsorship from the new developers on site. Members were advised it would more appropriate for sponsorship

to be sought in preparation for the start of the new financial year as the larger events held during the first half of the financial year would offer better advertising opportunities for potential sponsors.

Resolved: To note the report.

10024 VISION UPDATE

Members received a review of the initiatives under this committee.

Members discussed the option of removing items which had not been achieved, members agreed that these remain on the document as it was beneficial to see all items both achieved and unattained.

10025 COMMUNITY SERVICES

Members received a report from the Community Development Officer detailing work completed since the last meeting.

Members were advised that a grant of £5,000 had been awarded for the anti-knife crime campaign.

Members were advised that due to budget cuts for the youth provision, the external support for the Youth Council may change. An alternative member of staff/volunteer would need to be arranged.

Members were advised that attendance at the summer playscheme had been excellent, with only four places unattended over all sessions.

Members were advised of preliminary feedback on the family day trip to Southend had been positive. It was suggested that three family day trips be organised, one at Easter, one in the summer and one in the October half term.

- Resolved:**
- 1. To note the report;**
 - 2. To request a report on options available regarding support to the Youth Council given the change in the commissioned contract between Central Bedfordshire Council and Groundwork.**
 - 3. To note the potential for the Anti Knife Crime Knife Campaign to be held.**
 - 4. In relation to the 2020 holiday activities to:**
 - deliver the summer playscheme in the same format that it has been delivered this year;**
 - to deliver 3 family day trips, one at Easter, one in the summer and one in the October half term.**

10026 TOWN GUIDE

Members were advised that the current edition of the Town Guide expired in 2019.

Members were advised that historically the Guide had included a number of pages of editorial along with a number of pages of advertising. An external company had co-ordinated and sold the advertising space and had developed and printed the guide. The

Council had provided the editorial pages and photographs. Sufficient copies had been produced which enabled a copy to be delivered to each household plus a surplus to be used at events and ad-hoc.

There had been a cost to the council of production of £1000 as the publication had been largely funded through advertising. The advertising had been sold on the basis that a copy was delivered to each household.

A budget was requested for 2019/20 but ultimately was not agreed. It had not been possible to identify a surplus budget which could be made available in 2019/20. Therefore, members were requested to consider options around:

- Whether the council should continue to produce a guide
- Whether the current format is the right format, notably if advertising is included
- How the guide was circulated notably distributed to each house, key locations

Resolved: To seek to complete a town guide on the same basis in 2020/21.

10027 CCTV COSTS

Members were advised that the air time and warranty for the 3 redeployable cameras expired in September 2019.

A quote had been received. For a 2-year service bundle for all 3 cameras, the cost was £4500 (equating to £500 per year per camera) and for a 3-year service bundle the cost was £5400 (equating to £600 per year per camera). The costs were payable in full and upfront. The cost was higher per camera for a 3-year bundle due to the increase liability of the camera being nearer the end of its economic lifespan.

Members were advised that the cameras were purchased as follows: 2 in 2015 and 1 in 2016. The lifespan of a camera was up to 7 years. As such it was suggested that the 3-year service bundle be purchased and that the council may need to consider replacing all cameras at the end of this period.

Resolved: To purchase a 3-year service bundle at a cost of £5400.

10029 BULK WASTE COLLECTION CONTRACT

Members were advised that the previous council administration sought to establish an agreement with CBC to enable HRTC to subsidise bulk waste collections in the parish to reduce bulk waste in properties and incidences of fly tipping. The report presented a draft Service Level Agreement for consideration.

Members queried the process and were advised that residents would contact Houghton Regis Town Council for a reference number, they would then give this reference number to Central Bedfordshire Council and arrange their collection. Members suggested that a monitoring system be put in place to prevent abuse of the system.

Resolved: To agree the Service Level Agreement and for the project for the Subsidy of Bulk Waste Collections commence as soon as practicable.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.18pm

Dated this 28th day of October 2019

Chairman