

HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL
Community Services Committee
4th November 2019 at 7.00pm

Present:	Councillors:	K Wattingham J Carroll C Copleston Y Farrell D Jones T McMahan A Slough	Chairman Substitute
	Officers:	Clare Evans Tara Earnshaw Louise Senior	Town Clerk Community Development Officer Head of Democratic Services
Public:		0	
Apologies:		S Goodchild	

10109 APOLOGIES & SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from Cllr Goodchild (Cllr Jones substituted).

10110 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

10111 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

10112 MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd September 2019.

Members were advised that these minutes had been approved at the Community Services meeting held on 28th October 2019.

10113 REPORT FROM GROUNDWORK

Dave Ramsay was present to report on the youth work Groundwork has recently completed in Houghton Regis on behalf of Central Bedfordshire Council.

Members were advised that changes to the sessions would be taking place. Sessions would still run as open an session Tuesdays and Thursdays would become part open session and part 1:1 work in a separate part of the building.

Members were advised that the number of attendees had increased to 25 – 40 young people.

Members were advised there would be a focussed approach to educate the young people on several issues:

Cannabis (a speaker from the Police and Aquarius would be addressing the young people on cannabis use)

Intimidation

Anti-knife

In addition to more the cheerful topics i.e. Christmas.

Members were advised that focus would be teaching young people how Town Partnership Committee interact appropriately with both adults and peers.

Members were advised that as 1:1 sessions would be new, and feedback would be provided on their success at the next meeting.

10114 HRTC YOUTH SERVICES

Dave Ramsay from Groundwork was in attendance to report on the youth work Groundwork had completed on behalf of Houghton Regis Town Council.

Members received an overview report to date.

Members were advised that attendance had been good, with numbers from 26 – 28 while outside space could be used, as the weather had turned wetter, numbers had to be reduced to a maximum of 24 due to the capacity of staffing within the pavilion.

Members were advised that the young people were enjoying the variety of the food they were learning about. Members were advised that several young people who had been attending for a while had grown in confidence.

Resolved: To note the report.

10115 YOUTH SERVICES 2020/21

Members were requested to consider the youth services for 2020/21.

Members received a report detailing available options for continuation, cessation or revision of service delivery.

Members acknowledged the value of services brought to the young people of Houghton Regis.

Members considered the advantages of employing someone in-house to deliver the service and the impact on the young people if service delivery changed.

Members did not support the recommendation as written:

To support the in-house delivery for the continuation of the pop-up cafes in 2020/21 subject to HR advice on arising employment issues.

An alternative motion was proposed to read: For Groundwork to continue in accordance with the proposal from Groundwork subject to suitable budget provision being made for 2020/21.

Proposed by: Cllr Jones seconded by: Cllr McMahon

Members for: all in favour

Resolved: For Groundwork to continue in accordance with the proposal from Groundwork subject to suitable budget provision being made for 2020/21.

10116 YOUTH COUNCIL SUPPORT

Members received a report to enable them to consider support options for the youth council from January 2020.

Members were advised that the support that had been received for the Youth Council was being withdrawn due to contractual changes in the Central Bedfordshire Council contract. Members were invited to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the available options to enable support continuation.

Members were advised that recruitment of sessional workers could prove difficult, and sickness and annual leave would need to be considered and could affect delivery of the service.

Members were advised if Groundwork were used, the provision of a replacement worker would be supported by Groundwork if sickness or annual leave impaired delivery of service.

Members requested that the recommendations be taken individually.

Recommendation 1 was agreed.

Recommendation 2 as written was not supported.

To seek to appoint a sessional worker on a flexible contract to support the Houghton Regis Youth Council from April 2020.

An alternative motion was proposed to read: to accept Groundwork's proposal to provide a sessional worker in accordance with the proposal from Groundwork subject to suitable budget provision being made for 2020/21.

Resolved:

- 1. To seek to use the services of playscheme sessional workers to support the Houghton Regis Youth Council from January to March inclusive;**
- 2. To accept Groundwork's proposal to provide a sessional worker in accordance with the proposal from Groundwork subject to suitable budget provision being made for 2020/21.**

10117 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING WORKING GROUPS AND CONSIDER ANY RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED THEREIN

Events Working Group 28th August 2019
Combating Crime Working Group 21st August and 18th September 2019

Resolved: To receive the following Minutes:

Events Working Group 28th August 2019
Combating Crime Working Group 21st August and 18th September 2019

10118 BUDGET REVIEW

Members received the income and expenditure report, with significant variances highlighted for Community Services Committee to date.

Resolved: To note the report.

10119 DRAFT BUDGET 2020/21

Members received the officer draft budget for 2020/21 along with explanatory notes for the Community Services Committee.

The draft budget reflected on ongoing budgetary commitments along with anticipated budgetary commitments arising from the draft Council Vision 2020/24.

This was provided for initial consideration and comment.

Members acknowledged the community value of the summer day trip to Southend and agreed for this to continue.

Members suggested that the small grants budget be amended for applicants to supply a higher percentage of the overall cost of the project.

Members discussed the need for consort badges and agreed that these were important to recognise the commitment given by the consort. Members requested a breakdown of the costings involved for clarification.

10120 VISION UPDATE

Members received a review of the initiatives under this committee.

Members were advised that there had been technical issues when attempts were made to collect data from the speed data collection camera. Members were advised it had been suggested that as the data was vast, a 3g dongle be purchased with unlimited data allowance stored on a Network Attached Storage system. Members suggested the use of an android phone be attempted in the first instance.

Members discussed resources available to enable residents to report street issues directly. Members discussed various apps that were available, however members

were advised that Central Bedfordshire Council reporting system does not support these apps, and reporting can only be completed by using their online portal.

Resolved: To note the report.

10121 COMMUNITY SERVICES

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

Members requested that their thanks to the Community Development Officer for her hard work and efforts be minuted.

Members requested that the Shop Local Scheme statistics be monitored as uptake figures were lower than previous phases. It was suggested that a revised scheme be considered focusing on selected shops each month or year or include an accreditation scheme for participating shops.

Resolved: To note the report.

10122 COMMUNITY SERVICES FEES

Members were advised that the Events Working Group had considered event fees and sponsorship opportunities for 2020/21 at the meeting on 30th October 2019.

The pitch fees for 2020-2021 were agreed as follows:

- Fairground £100.00 per ride
- Food outlets £135.00 per outlet
- Ice Cream Vans £110.00 per van
- Commercial Stalls £55.00 per stall
- Stall holders (individuals) £15 per stall **
- Registered Charities £10 per stall **
- £60 for stalls at the Fireworks Display
- £220 for fairground at Fireworks Display
- £220 for fairground at Houghton Rocks.

Resolved: To approve the events fees for 2020/21.

10123 COUNCIL EVENTS 2020/21

Members were advised that the Events Working Group considered the calendar of council events for 2020/21 at the meeting on 30th October 2019.

Resolved: To approve the calendar of council events for 2020/21.

10124 CHRISTMAS TREE

Members were advised that there were potential issues sourcing large and good quality Christmas trees this Christmas. The HRTC contract with Lamps and Tubes included the provision of a tree to be located in Bedford Square, however members were

advised that the company Lamps and Tubes usually source from have advised that they were not supplying trees this year. An alternative local company had been sourced but their costs were prohibitive. A further alternative company had been sourced, whose prices were comparable to the original company. Assurances had been provided by the supplier that the quality of the tree was good. Members were requested to note this report.

An alternative for subsequent years would be for the council to consider purchasing a large artificial tree. The cost of a natural looking artificial tree is £5,500 for a 6.7m artificial tree and £6,900 for a 7.4m artificial tree. Artificial trees last more than one season but their life span was weather dependent but typically they last 3-4 years. Please note that this product was made to order abroad, there was insufficient lead time for the 2019 Christmas season.

**Resolved: To note the report for Christmas 2019;
To consider an artificial tree should the quality of the natural tree in 2019 not be considered suitable.**

10125 OPERATION HANA 2020/21

Members were invited to consider Operation Hana for 2020/21.

The current contract ended 31st March 2020 and as such members were invited to consider whether to seek to continue this contract in 2020/21 on the same or a different format.

Members acknowledged the positive feedback from residents regarding the visibility of the police in Houghton Regis.

Resolved: To continue Operation Hana on the same format in 2020 /21 subject to budget provision being made available.

10126 EVENT EVALUATION

To evaluate the impact and community value of Houghton Regis Town Council run events. Members were advised that the initial data collection would be outsourced, once a large event had been evaluated e.g. Carnival, the evaluation principles could then be applied to other events with a focus on a different event each year. Members were advised that the predicted cost for an evaluation of one event would be around £1,000.

**Resolved: 1. To seek budget provision in 2020/21 for an event evaluation for the carnival in 2020;
2. To subsequently review the process for other council events.**

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.00pm

Dated this 10th day of February 2020.

Chairman

