

Resolved: To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd July 2019.

832 PROPOSAL FOR SPORTS FACILITY ENHANCEMENT AT TITHE FARM RECREATION GROUND

Ms L White, Policy Manager, Leisure, Libraries and Countryside, Central Bedfordshire Council attended the meeting to discuss this project with members.

Members were advised that a report was presented to the HRTC Environment & Leisure Committee on 17th September 2019 and to HRTC Town Council on 7th October. The project had been supported by HRTC. This report was shared for information with the Partnership Committee.

Members acknowledged the need for football pitches in Houghton Regis and welcomed the prospect of improved facilities.

Members considered external funding and s106. There are s106 funds held by HRTC and CBC which could provide the 'partner funding' contribution for the Football Foundation grant bid. Detailed appraisal work is required for the grant bid, but subject to results of the scheme feasibility work currently underway, an application could be submitted to the Football Foundation in April 2020. Officers will be reporting back to HRTC Environment and Leisure Committee and Town Council on the results of the feasibility study, providing project costings and requesting authority to proceed if the scheme is viable.

Resolved: To note the report.

833 IMPROVING HEALTH AND WELLBEING IN HOUGHTON REGIS

Martin Westerby, Head of Public Health Programmes, CBC attended the meeting to give members an update on a new approach to improving health and wellbeing in Houghton Regis.

Members received a presentation of how this would be achieved using a commissioned organisation to facilitate community engagement and identify needs in Houghton Regis and the costs involved.

Members acknowledged the December deadline and requested that the service specifications be circulated, along with a case study, to members of the Partnership Committee. Members suggested that a wide range of communication strategies be used in order to communicate with all sectors of the community.

834 HOUGHTON REGIS ACADEMY

Simon Cotton, Central Bedfordshire Council School Improvement Advisor and Late Philpott, attended the meeting to discuss with members the future of Houghton Regis Academy. As background members received a letter from Greenwood Academies Trust.

Members were advised that the closure of Houghton Regis Academy was being considered by the Department for Education and the impact on Houghton Regis would be assessed, it was advised that the closure would not take place before 2020.

Members were advised that a meeting had been arranged with young people of the school and the South Bedfordshire MP, Andrew Selous, where they expressed their disappointment.

Members were advised that interim support had been offered to Houghton Regis Academy by Redbourne Teaching School.

Members raised concerns over the location of the Trust which would take on the new school and suggested that members preferences would be a local trust, as Greenwood Trust was based in Nottingham, and as such, was detached from the needs of the school and the community.

Members were advised for the longer term, a new secondary school would be established, planning permission would need to be granted for the new school and the decision would ultimately fall with the DfE.

835 KINGSLAND FEASIBILITY STUDY

Ms Jill Dickinson, Assistant Director Leisure, Libraries and Countryside, Central Bedfordshire Council attended the meeting to provide a briefing on a feasibility study to look at options for new community assets on the Kingsland campus which would include a secondary school, primary school and leisure centre to accommodate predicted service needs.

Due to the complex and varied service offer currently operating from Kingsland, the feasibility study would consider how these community assets could be accommodated on the available part of the site, along with any legal and site constraints such as access and ecology. It would also consider what role the campus could have beyond education and leisure for the current and new community. An assessment of affordability for the leisure centre will also be undertaken.

Members queried how this would affect the facilities currently on-site. In response members were advised that it was too soon to be able to say but that the priority was to look at accommodating the new facilities on the available part of the site.

Members welcomed the prospect of regeneration work in the 'old' part of Houghton Regis.

836 PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE WORKPLAN

Members were invited to consider the Partnership Committee workplan.

At the last meeting there was some discussion over the following specific issues, updates were included below:

1. Ownership and management of Tithe Farm Road car park and the possibility of introducing parking controls i.e. free for 3 hours (CBC member request)

Members agreed a written report to be submitted but not to include on the work plan.

Update – CBC are considering the query from the Partnership meeting. A report will be provided in due course.

2. Policing levels in Houghton Regis, specifically consideration of call charges to the 101 number and the 01582 471212 number which may be free under some phone tariffs, police call answering times (CBC member request)
3. Off road bikes and the possibility of a dedicated reporting phone number (CBC member request)

Members agreed an invitation be extended on behalf of the Town Partnership Committee to the PCC or a representative to discuss items 2 & 3.

Update: the PCC is unable to attend a meeting of the Partnership Committee; however, members were advised that the PCC was attending the town council offices in January and HRTC members and CBC ward members were invited to attend.

4. Management and maintenance of the Chalk Pit (resident request via HRTC)
Members agreed to add this item to the work plan.
5. CCTV within recreational areas to act as a deterrent to anti-social behaviour (CBC member request)
Members agreed a written report to be submitted but not to include on the work plan.

Update: CBC advised that the recreational areas in Houghton Regis do not flag up as hot spot areas for crime and anti-social behavior. The CBC control room have advised that they cover very few recreation grounds as Police data does not support it. Reportedly the local policing sergeant advised that they did not consider this provision as a pressing need. When possible, residents should be encouraged to report ASB to 101 so that intelligence was gathered, and resources could be effectively targeted.

6. Leisure and sports facilities including future football provision (officer suggestion and request from resident)
Members agreed to add this item to the work plan.

837 HOUGHTON REGIS PARTNERSHIP – TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members were advised that CBC approved the Town Joint Committee Terms of Reference at Full Council on 26th September following a couple of minor modifications / clarifications requested at General Purposes Committee. Members received a report and the approved Terms of Reference.

The Terms of Reference will also be presented to Town Council in due course.

Resolved: To note the report.

838 HRN2 COMMUNITY BUILDING

Sarah Hughes, Community Engagement Manager, Central Bedfordshire Council, provided members with a verbal update.

Members were advised there was 0.5 ha available and £1m of funding through the S106 Agreement. There had been interest from a group of churches in HRN2 Community Building over some considerable time

It was confirmed that Central Bedfordshire Council would write to the group of churches and Houghton Regis Town Council to invite business proposals detailing how the building could move forward and proposed partnership arrangements.

Members advised that they had found a visit to Finchampstead valuable and had increased their understanding of the building, they advised that the HRN2 building would not be needed on the same scale as the Finchampstead building which had cost in excess of £5m to develop.

839 CBC UPDATE REPORT

Members received the CBC update report for information.

Members were advised that s106 funding had been approved for Houghton Regis Town Council for:

- Energy efficiency measures in recreation facilities
- Flag pole illumination
- Community defibrillators

Members raised concerns over contractors parking by Red House Court and Clarkes Way. Grass had been damaged by the Memorial Stone due to unauthorised parking, it was suggested that the company provide some knee high railings around the Memorial Stone to prevent contractor vehicles parking as concerns were raised that the vehicles were causing an obstruction to the residents of Red House Court, forcing them off the pathway and onto the road.

Members were advised that contractors had been spoken to in order to ensure the safety of residents.

Resolved: To note the report.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.07pm.

Dated this 28th of January 2020.

Chairman