



COUNCIL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

22 NOVEMBER 2013

PARKSIDE, STATION APPROACH, BURTON STREET, MELTON MOWBRAY

PRESENT:-

Councillors J.B. Rhodes, M.C.R Graham MBE,
T. Moncrieff, M. Twitney, D.Wright

As Substitute:-

Councillor J. Wyatt for Councillor P.Posnett

Strategic Director (CAM);
Corporate Property Officer (DB);
Central Services Administrative Assistant (JR).

CB.7. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Posnett, the Head of Central Services and the Head of Communications.

CB.8. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on date 16 May 2013 were confirmed and authorised to be signed by the Chairman.

CB.9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Twitney declared a pecuniary interest in any matters relating to Brooksby Melton College due to him being an employee.

Councillor Rhodes declared a personal and non pecuniary interest in any matters relating to Leicestershire County Council due to his role as a County Councillor.

CB.10. PARKSIDE AND NEW WAYS OF WORKING: UPDATE ON PROGRESS

Members had before them a report jointly prepared by the Head of Central Services and the Corporate Property Officer (copies of which had previously been circulated) which updated Members on the progress with the various matters in respect of Parkside and the New Ways of Working programme.

The Corporate Property Officer gave an update to Members on the partnership working within Parkside. He advised that at a recent Asset Management Conference he attended it became apparent that Parkside had the highest number of partners/organisations sharing premises with different delivery options. He advised that the CAB would like to work here on a full time basis and that JCP have settled in well. The Egerton 1 & 2 meeting rooms, on the ground floor, are used predominantly by Partners and there are some capacity issues at peak times on the ground floor. At a recent Facilities Management meeting it was suggested that customers should be directed to quieter days/times to ease the workload on certain days as there are definite peaks and troughs becoming apparent throughout the working week. A Member suggested that it would be beneficial to have specific data for the whole of Parkside regarding footfall into the building. This would aid the arrangements for managing customers efficiently.

A discussion centred on the possible move of a Leicestershire County Council facility.

(Councillor Twitney left the meeting during the discussion of the previous item and then returned for the remainder of the meeting)

Members were advised that a sum of £52k of retention monies is outstanding to address snags within Parkside. The main concerns, at present, are the large Civic Suite emergency exit doors. Advice has been sought from a specialist supplier and the preferred option is to install door closers on each door. Externally a bollard will be located between the doors with a cabin hook to secure each door. The efficiency of the door closers in high winds is an issue and, therefore initially, only one door will be fitted.

Members queried whether the retention monies could be used to extend the Parkside ground floor kitchen, it was confirmed that this money was for the snags and the kitchen improvements were not part of this.

An issue was raised regarding the seals for the main reception entrance doors and it was confirmed that this work is in progress.

Members were updated on the work of Melton in Bloom who recently achieved a silver gilt standard from the East Midlands in Bloom judges, only just missing out on achieving a gold standard. To assist in achieving the gold standard when next judged, the litter bin emptying will be increased and consideration given to a specialist gardener being employed for half a day a week to work in the gardens.

Members were advised of the suggestion by the Mayor, Councillor Marilyn M Gordon, that the rear of the Parkside Wayfinders sign should be covered with an appropriate image in keeping with the waterways bed. A modest budget was supported by the Members for a vinyl image to be installed.

A progress update on the Working Dogs sculpture was given and work is going ahead with a planned unveiling date, of one of the sculptures, on December 2nd 2013. The sculpture will be located in the centre of the lawned area adjacent to the flagpoles at Parkside. It was requested that a special mention be given, at the ceremony, to Dinah Rudman, of the Civic Society, who first suggested the idea of a working dog sculpture. Councillor Wyatt commented that he also supported the project and suggested the project should include three working dogs.

The embankment works have incurred a minor overspend due to additional areas of work being included, but there are funds within the section 278 works to cover this. A Member did ask if the drain on Burton Bridge has been repaired, but the state of the drain was not known by the Corporate Property Officer and this will be researched.

The Corporate Property Officer advised that there are problematic issues with sourcing replacement items for Parkside, with some having to be bought from Europe. It was reported that the sound baffles in the atrium are working well. The Facilities Management Officer has been advised that the curtains, in Council Chamber 2 that cover the Mayors' photographs, need adjusting so that all photographs can be seen when the curtains are open.

It was reported that there is good collaboration between Partners in Parkside and the recent well received visit on 6 November 2013 by Esther McVey MP, Minister of State for Employment endorsed this. The visit commemorated the co-location of Jobcentre Plus at Parkside, the first such co-location arrangement of its type nationally with such a wide range of Partners.

Members were advised that the request from the Registrars to make changes in the Ferneley Room has been withdrawn.

The Corporate Property Officer explained the present issues with the position of the Parkside Post Box and put forward a recommendation to relocate the Post Box into the wall next to the main doors by removing a glass panel and inserting a fire proof box. Signage will be displayed to assist customers.

Members were advised that the Brighter Futures Project will use the Ferneley Room on Mondays, between November 2013 and February 2014. The Leicestershire County Council Parish Conference has selected the Parkside Civic Suite as the venue for a meeting on the role of Parish and Town Councils in Leicestershire scheduled for February 2014.

RESOLVED:

- (1) to note the updated financial position to Parkside attached as an exempt Appendix A to the report;
- (2) to note the update on the retention and snags;
- (3) to note the update on the heritage garden and views of Members regarding the image to the rear of the Wayfinders sign;
- (4) to note the update on the Working Dog(s) sculpture;
- (5) to note the options being considered by Melton in Bloom for Memorial Planting Tubs at Parkside;
- (6) to note the position relating to the embankment and the Section 106 Works;
- (7) to note the Parkside Works update;
- (8) to note the Parkside Partners update;
- (9) to note that the Registrars are no longer pursuing changes to the Ferneley Room;
- (10) that approval was given regarding the proposed option for the post box and the necessary expenditure was approved;
- (11) to note the use of the Ferneley Room for the Brighter Futures Project and use of the Civic Suite by the Melton Parish Liaison Group in February 2014 be dealt with under Officer delegations

The Strategic Director (CAM) advised Members that the BREEAM “very good” rating is not to be pursued as it is not considered to be the best use of resources with the building achieving an EPC rating of B.

A member asked if there had there been any feedback from customers using the ground floor kitchen at Parkside and if there were plans to extend the facilities. The Corporate Property Officer advised that the Civic Suite may be used for more conference style events by JCP, in the future and that other possible income streams from external users is being considered. Larger functions may require larger facilities and this will be considered in a report to the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee next year.

Attention was brought, by a Member, to the Heritage Walks Leaflet regarding its content and misleading information. This is to be reviewed by the Strategic Director (CAM).

CB.11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman proposed that this Sub-Committee be disbanded, as it has completed its work, and that further items are to be referred directly to the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee for consideration and approval. This proposal was unanimously agreed

The meeting which commenced at 2.30pm closed at 3.20pm

Chairman