



TOWN AREA COMMITTEE

PARKSIDE, STATION APPROACH, BURTON STREET, MELTON MOWBRAY

16 NOVEMBER 2015

PRESENT:-

Councillors P.M. Posnett (Chairman)
T. Beaken, T. Culley, J. Douglas,
P. Faulkner, M. Glancy, J. Hurrell, V.J. Manderson,
A. Pearson, J. Wyatt

Chief Executive
Head of Central Services, Head of Regulatory Services
People and Place Manager
Committee Support Clerk (DS)

T6. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cumbers, Greenow, Illingworth and Lumley. Councillor Bains was also not present.

T7. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2015 were confirmed and authorised to be signed by the Chairman.

T8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Pearson and Posnett declared personal interests in any items related to the County Council due to their position as County Councillors.

T9. CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING TO 31 OCTOBER 2015

The Head of Central Services submitted a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) which gave Members an update on the progress of schemes within the Capital Programme to 31 October 2015.

The Head of Central Services drew Members' attention to paragraph 5.1 where the overall year end position was forecasted to be in line with the budget, and the majority of the spend was expected toward the later part of the financial year. The Head of Central Services advised that the figures may need revisiting at another

point in the future in light of the report later on the agenda relating to the pavilion at the country park.

A Member raised a question in relation to the Tree Belt Clearance and sought clarification on the extent to which the trees would be cleared; whether it would be all the trees or some of the trees. It was advised that the clearance would be only for brambles and leaves, and those trees which had disease.

Councillor Faulkner requested that he be taken to the site to see what is being done, and the People and Place Manager affirmed that Officers would be in touch to arrange this.

A Member raised concerns over the clearing of the tree belt citing that it is a wildlife corridor and that clearing the area would lead to wildlife erosion. The Chief Executive advised that the Council would be fulfilling its duties in relation to health and safety in dealing with clearing those trees with disease, and advised that the wording in the report was somewhat careless and could have been made clearer, however the Council would only be clearing those areas which have been overgrown with leaves and brambles and those trees which are known to be diseased.

Further queries from Members sought information as to whether residents in the area had already been consulted about the tree clearance, and a Member advised that they had already been made aware of the situation because residents complained about the overgrowth.

The Chairman queried Members on the wording of Tree Belt Clearance and Members were unanimous in voting to change the wording to 'Tree Belt Maintenance' to clarify understanding of the Business Case.

All recommendations were moved by Councillor Posnett and Councillor Culley seconded and on being put to the vote, carried.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the progress made on each Capital Scheme be noted as attached at Appendix A;
- (2) a change to the wording of the Business Case from 'Tree Belt Clearance' to Tree Belt Maintenance be agreed;
- (3) the Business Case for the Tree Belt Maintenance attached at Appendix B be approved for submission the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee.

T10. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2015-20

The Head of Central Services submitted a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) to determine the Committee's Capital Programme for 2015-20 based on a review of the spending in the current year's programme and schemes included in the programme for later years.

The Head of Central Services advised that the only change to the Capital

Programme which is outlined in Appendix B, is a scheme for new Play Area Equipment replacement in the amount of £75,000 in 2016/17, which is part of the Council's ongoing replacement programme for equipment and apparatus with renewal based on the actual condition, safety and safe working life of play equipment. The mandate covers the predetermined renewals of certain items of failing equipment in the play areas at Thrush Close, West Avenue, Honeysuckle Way, Kirby Fields and Scalford Brook.

The Head of Central Services advised Members that the Special Expenses fund is very limited at £28,000, with approximately another £15,000 extra that may come from the 2016/17 budget as a result, further funding may need to be sought from general fund capital receipts as the full funding of £75,000 may be difficult to source.

A Member raised a concern that the Play Area Equipment on the West Avenue Play Area has been taken away and younger residents do not have any play equipment. The People and Place Manager advised that he would get officers to look into the situation.

A Member queried the state of the progress on the demolition of the Thorpe Road Toilets and was advised that from the last meeting, the Business Case would be going forward to the Policy, Finance and Administration Committee on 1 December 2015, and that progress should pick up speed following that meeting.

It was also requested that the Council forward plan for future replacement of play area equipment. The Head of Central Services responded that an amount had been allowed in the revenue budget for future replacements but that there was a lot of catch up repairs that needed to be undertaken and that it would be more effective once everything is up to its specification.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the revised Capital Programme for 2015-20 as attached at Appendix A be approved;
- (2) the Project Mandate as attached at Appendix B be approved for inclusion in the Capital Programme being the only scheme submitted in 2015-20 for funding as part of the budget setting process.

T11. REVENUE BUDGET 2016-17 COMMITTEE ESTIMATES

The Head of Central Services submitted a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) to brief Members on the latest position of the Committee's revenue budget estimates.

The Head of Central Services advised Members that paragraph 3.4 contained comparisons of the budgets across the year and that at the current position, the budget expenditure is at £616,000, and the original budget was set at £611,000.

Members were further advised that paragraph 3.5 outlined the growth proposal which would be going to Full Council.

The Head of Central Services also advised that the estimates contained an assumption of a Council Tax increase of 1.9%, which had been previously included in the Medium Term Financial Strategy. The final approval would be at Full Council when the budget is set.

A Member queried the expenditure relating to the cemetery and where would the income be in respect charges for graves and was advised that the amount included income as well as gross expenses, and pointed out that the breakdown is set out in Appendix B under Cemetery.

Another query was raised requesting clarification of 'Open Spaces' and Members were advised that this meant grass cutting and maintenance.

All recommendations were moved by Councillor Posnett and Councillor Pearson seconded. All Members were unanimously in favour.

RESOLVED that the latest position on this Committee's revenue budget estimates be noted.

T12. ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONSIDERING PLANNING AND LICENSING APPLICATIONS

The Head of Regulatory Services submitted a report (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) which outlined the arrangements for the Committee's engagement on planning and licensing applications.

The Head of Regulatory Services advised that the Committee included a role on commenting on planning and licensing issues. Following discussion, it was found that it would be inappropriate and unnecessary for the Committee to consider all such applications, and this would be disproportionate in terms of the time and administration required.

The core function of this Committee is to consider the interest of the whole town of Melton Mowbray and many smaller scale applications have an impact that is limited to their immediate surroundings.

Therefore it was proposed that the Committee would receive only 'major' applications. For these purposes 'major' is defined as those applications of 10 houses or more and an equivalent floor space for retail, industrial commercial and other types of development of 1000m²

Similarly, most applications under the Licensing Act (and related legislation) are unrelated to the issues that may affect the wider town. Therefore, there would be no routine arrangement for the consideration of licences. However, this would not prevent them being considered in exceptional circumstances. However, these circumstances would be considered by the Town Area Committee on an ad hoc basis.

All recommendations were moved by Councillor Posnett and Councillor Hurrell seconded. All Members were unanimously in favour.

RESOLVED that

- (1) applications of the nature and scale described at paragraphs 3.2 and 3.4 be received by the Committee;
- (2) the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements be reviewed after a period of 1 year.

T13. MELTON COUNTRY PARK PAVILION – UPDATE

The People and Place Manager submitted a report on behalf of the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods (copies of which had previously been circulated to Members) giving an update on and which sought approval on the next steps in the Melton Country Park Pavilion.

The People and Place Manager advised that the existing pavilion is under-performing and not reaching its potential to be a positive community resource. The responses have highlighted a local demand for an improved service within Melton Country Park.

Members of the Community and Social Affairs Committee approved the Business Case for the County Park Pavilion at their meeting on 22 January 2014, and allocated a budget of £210,000 towards the project of replacing the existing facility in the Country Park with a new pavilion and community use facility.

Following Members' approval, Officers have been progressing with this project, however, market testing and a procurement exercise showed that developing a new facility for additional community and social use could not be delivered without significant further budgets.

Recent developments in regard to the Melton Sports, Leisure and Culture Village project, and further community intelligence suggests a full new pavilion and an extensive community use building may not reflect real demand and may exceed the actual need for both social and recreational use.

Therefore Members have been asked to approve a revised project which seeks to :

- Potentially liaise with the current football team which use the pitch to relocate to the King Edward site or alternative
- Further consultation with the community affected by this project for the need and scale of a community facility in the area, which may potentially be run by the community itself.

The People and Place Manager advised that in terms of the football team moving away from the County Park to the King Edward site, was an idea which came from residents. As they move forward with the consultation in January 2016 more responses will indicate the general consensus between February and April 2016.

Discussions showed that the proposal seemed to be taking one step forward and two steps back. The People and Place Manager advised that these ideas have come about due to complaints about the football players using the pitch at the Country Park Pavilion, but that the issue is not just about football, but also for a community use facility which can be accessed by everyone that is state of the art

and modern.

A Member queried whether a football pitch would still be left at the Country Park because it is a positive atmosphere to see young people making use of such facilities. The People and Place Manager advised that this would be a suggestion put out to residents about how they want the Country Park to look and be used.

A Member also shared that despite it being a positive means for young people to engage in positive activities, these same footballers do cause issues for residents in the area who do not like the loud profanity and noise which comes from the pitch.

Some Members felt that pushing 'all' sport to the Kind Edward site was not wholly positive for the Borough because not everyone had access to a vehicle or means to travel to the Kind Edward site; sport should be accessible to everyone as an everyday activity.

The People and Place Manager advised that it may be the formal part of the Country Park Pavilion that gets taken down, but the informal facilities will remain on site, however, how this all comes about is down to the consultation which has yet to go live.

A Member shared that it was important to gather the views of different age groups because not everyone submits a consultation response, and it would be imperative to get the views of young people on this issue, and not just the residents who do not make use of the facilities. This was in agreement that the demographics of the consultation should be balanced.

Members thought it would be a good idea to get more engaged with local youth about the issue.

Members also questioned the future of the Community Centre and whether it would be viable in future. It was advised that before anything happened, answers were still needed about who would be running the facility and who would take ownership over it. How the residents planned to use the Community Centre would be revealed from the consultation. The People and Place Manager said that in the past, such buildings were used by residents to run coffee morning or meetings.

The recommendations were moved by Councillor Pearson and Councillor Posnett seconded. All Members were unanimously in favour.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the update on the Melton Country Park Pavilion project be noted;
- (2) a revised project as outlined in sections 3.7, 3.8 and 3.9 be explored and a Business Case be brought back to this Committee.

T14. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

The Meeting which began at 6:30 pm, closed at 7:15pm.

Chairman