

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK FOCUS GROUP held on  
22 July 2003 in the Parish Room, 2 Fiddlers Lane, Saughall

In attendance: Councillor A Bailey (in the Chair)  
Councillor A Marsden  
Councillor C Moss  
Councillor RA Storrar  
Councillor C Wynne-Eyton (Tree Warden)  
Councillor Mrs J Young

Co-opted Members: Mr D Bird  
Mr B Huxley representing Saughall Cricket Club

Also in attendance: Councillor Mrs JE Storrar  
10 members of the public

35 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

36 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

A number of residents had indicated that they were unhappy with the proposals to develop a Golden Jubilee Park on the existing Fiddlers Lane Playing Field and on the 5.1 acres of adjacent land in the ownership of the Parish Council. The Chairman had invited them to attend the Focus Group to air their views.

Issues raised included the following:

- ?? 4m high cricket fence (semi-permanent).
- ?? Balls going into gardens.
- ?? Use of the facilities when organised games are not being played.
- ?? Youth issues.
- ?? Anti social behaviour/nuisance activities and bad language being used on the existing field well into the early hours.
- ?? Motorbikes on the existing field.
- ?? Beer bottles and syringes thrown into gardens.
- ?? The need for a buffer between the houses and sports facilities e.g. bowling green, tennis courts.
- ?? Decrease in house values as a direct result of the development
- ?? Lack of assistance from the police and subsequent frustrations.
- ?? The need for adequate security.
- ?? Noise levels.
- ?? Activities behind the Uniformed Group's Headquarters.

Following the receipt of representations the Focus Group considered how the land could be developed so as not to detrimentally affect the quality of life of local residents and what could be done to bring about improvement to the current situation and alleviate the problems currently being experienced.

Residents were told that it was necessary to build up evidence of the disturbances and anti social activities that were affecting their quality of life. This was the only way to get a police presence back in the village. It was important to continue to ring the police (01244 350222) to report problems and to obtain an incident number, even though the perceptions were that there was no point because the Police were not interested and would not attend. The Chairman armed with a case of evidence would then be able to go to the Police and discuss their response, attendance and presence and agree strategies to remedy the problems experienced.

Members considered that in view of the representations that had been made the Council should look again at the facilities to be included in the Park and agree a compromise. Perhaps the layout should be altered and two football pitches be provided instead of three. A bowling green and tennis courts could act as the buffer requested between the residential area and the sports pitches. The grant aid situation in respect of football pitch reduction would need to be ascertained.

**RECOMMENDED:** That

- (1) the Council be requested to revisit the layout of the proposed Golden Jubilee Park in the light of local residents comments and concerns;
- (2) local residents be kept informed of developments; and
- (3) further consultations be carried out with local residents as the development progresses.

37 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were received.

38 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the former Golden Jubilee Park Panel held on 8 May 2003 be confirmed as a correct record.

39 PARISH PLAN STEERING GROUP

RESOLVED:

That Mr D Bird and Councillor C Moss be requested to represent the Focus Group on the Parish Plan Steering Group.

40 PARISH PLAN

RESOLVED:

That the following ideas be put forward for consideration/inclusion when the Parish Plan is drawn up:

- ?? Introduction of a Neighbourhood Warden Scheme in Saughall.
- ?? Increased security be provided in the village e.g. CCTV.
- ?? Strategies and proposals to eradicate anti social behaviour and nuisance youth activity be implemented.
- ?? Partnership working with the police be improved and ways be sought to control unruly children.
- ?? Community safety measures be introduced where practical and in particular in the new Golden Jubilee Park.

41 APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION  
 - RE-DESIGNATION OF LAND FOR RECREATIONAL USE  
 - REMOVAL OF HEDGEROW

The planning application had been submitted to Chester City Council, the Planning Authority. The Planning Officer assigned to the application, Mr Mark Dickens, had written to the Clerk with comments from himself and Mr N O’Kell (Nature Conservation Officer) that needed to be addressed.

As a consequence, an amended application was required. The Chairman had been in touch with Dr J Hodgson regarding issues raised and questions asked in respect of the Ecological Report he had provided. The information required had been received. The Chairman intended to submit the amended application in September 2003.

42 GRANT AID OPPORTUNITIES

The Focus Group was asked to look out for and explore funding opportunities in respect of tennis court and bowling green provision. Any funding streams that could be tapped into would be discussed at the next meeting of the Focus Group.

43 THE DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT 1995 AND HOW THE PROVISIONS COMING INTO FORCE ON 1 OCTOBER 2004 RELATE TO OUTSIDE PUBLIC PLAY AREAS

The Clerk had a copy of the Guide for reference when assessing play areas to ensure that they were fully accessible to children with impairments.

44 THE TENDERING PROCESS

Problems with the tendering documentation had come to light. Consequently, the Focus Group was informed that the tendering period had been extended. Tenders would not now be submitted by 5pm on Friday, 25 July 2003 but by 5pm on Monday, 1 September 2003.

RESOLVED:

That Mr D Bird be requested to speak to Mr Ray Easby, the Council’s technical advisor, and ensure that the necessary action was taken to rectify the situation in respect of the tendering documentation as soon as possible.

45 MOLES

It was noted that thirteen moles had been trapped at a cost of £210.

46 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the date and time of the next meeting be agreed after the tenders are received and evaluated.