

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK FOCUS GROUP held on 26 February 2004 in the Parish Room, 2 Fiddlers Lane, Saughall

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

Co-opted Members: Mr D Bird
Mr H Dobson
Mr B Huxley
Mr D Parry

16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillor C Moss
Councillor Mrs JE Storrar

17 CODE OF CONDUCT – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were received.

18 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Focus Group held on 5 February 2004 were **AGREED** as a correct record.

19 APPOINTMENT OF PROJECT MANAGER

Once planning approval was obtained and work could begin to develop the Golden Jubilee Park it would be necessary to appoint a Project Manager to oversee and co-ordinate the scheme. Mr Bird was **RECOMMENDED** for this position. Mr Bird indicated that he would be happy to accept this position if offered it by the Council.

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

(a) Progress on the Application

Mr Bird informed that he had produced a revised site layout, drainage plan and landscape plan after taking into account residents concerns and comments and tried to alleviate them by introducing a buffer zone.

Councillor RA Storrar had asked Mr Mark Dickens, Planning Officer, to take a provisional look at the site layout to ascertain whether the planning aspects had been satisfied before it was submitted formally.

Mr Dickens had informed that although he was happy with the layout it would be appropriate to run it passed the Police and Highway Authority to show them that their previous concerns had been noted and ensure the revisions met with their approval.

It was **AGREED** that Councillor A Bailey would contact PC C Burnham and arrange a meeting to consider the revised site layout and seek his approval to the amendments made before formally submitting the plans to the Planning Authority.

It was also **AGREED** that Mr Bird would take a number of photographs of the site, particularly of the perimeter fencing for submission with the plans and layout to the Planning Authority.

(b) Awareness Raising Event – 21 February 2004

It was reported that the second Awareness Raising Event had gone well. There had been some negativity but some people appeared more positive after they were shown the revised site layout and the buffer zone that had been incorporated.

Members considered the content of an e-mail submitted by a resident who had attended the event. A number of concerns were expressed as follows:

- ? The position of the playground and car park next to the children's play area.
- ? The fencing of the pond.
- ? Basketball Court – how often it could be used as the area would double as a car park?
- ? The lack of screening.
- ? Saughall Colts relocation and the costs and benefits involved.

The Group discussed the issues raised and gave consideration to the periphery fencing and that around the pond that it would provide. It was **AGREED** that Councillor A Bailey would respond to the concerned resident with the Group's comments.

(c) Environmental Project

Mrs H Cakebread, a local botanist, had agreed to offer advice on the Environmental Project. It was considered appropriate to make the environmental study report carried out by Aquatic Management Service available to her and seek her opinion on the findings. The Chairman **AGREED** to provide Mrs Cakebread with a copy of the report.

The Group considered the fencing of the pond and the need to stop balls. It was **AGREED** that advise on the fencing be sought from the Cheshire Playing Fields Association.

21 TENDERS – UPDATE

Mr Bird informed that it was now appropriate to write to the three tenderers:

Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council
Landform (UK) Ltd
Michael Corns Contracts Ltd

to confirm that their offers remain open for a further 26 weeks, in accordance with the tender requirements.

It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would ensure appropriate letters were sent to each contractor quoting the sum plus the percentage up-lift.

22 REPORT OF THE GOLDEN JUBILEE PARK FUNDING WORKING PARTY
- GRANT AID OPPORTUNITIES

Mr Parry reported that a lot of work had gone into the Business Plan and that it was almost complete. Members received a copy of the latest draft for information. It was noted that appendices would be added to demonstrate developments from it and ongoing management.

A list of possible funders had been drawn up. Some could provide capital funding and others could provide revenue funding.

Mr Parry now intended to start to prepare funding bids for submission.

The Group also discussed the possibility of hiring a Youth Manager.

23 THE PARK AS AN ALCOHOL FREE ZONE

The possibility of having the Park designated as an alcohol free zone in an attempt to deter youngsters from drinking alcohol on the field was discussed. It was noted that if Chester City Council was successful in obtaining a byelaw to prevent the consumption of alcohol on the Park it would have implications for any application for a public entertainment license in the future. Also, alcohol would not be able to be consumed during cricket matches or at picnics, etc.

It was **AGREED** not to pursue the proposal to designate the Park as an alcohol free zone.

24 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was **AGREED** that the date and time of the next meeting of the Focus Group be determined by the Council at its meeting on 1 March 2004. It was important that the meeting was held just before the amended site layout and plans were submitted to the Planning Authority.