

WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM**25 January 2017**Attendance:Councillors:

Weir (Chairman) (P)

Ashton (P)
Berry (P)
Burns (P)
Elks (P)
Green(P)
Hiscock (P)
Hutchison (P)Learney (P)
Mather (P)
Scott (P)
Tait (P)
Thompson
Tod (P)

1. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Councillors Mather and Tod declared disclosable pecuniary interests due to their roles as Hampshire County Councillors. However, as there was no material conflict of interest, they remained in the room, spoke and voted under the dispensation granted on behalf of the Standards Committee to participate and vote in all matters which might have a County Council involvement.

Various Councillors declared personal interests in respect of Report CAB2888 and these are detailed under the relevant minute below.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- (i) Air Quality Action Plan Consultation Briefing for Town Forum Members
Members were reminded that if they had been unable to attend the Air Quality Action Plan consultation briefing (held prior to the Town Forum meeting), they could contact the Environmental Health Team to obtain further details. It was noted that the public consultation period for the plan was open until 10 February 2017 and the Chairman announced that she was happy to discuss with Members what should be considered moving forward and welcomed suggestions for Forum Members to compile a list of actions.

(ii) Waste Management

Discussion with Westminster City Council had continued as a leading authority with regards commercial waste. On 15 February 2017, Members were invited to attend a briefing to explore the working practices achieved by Westminster and to consider new opportunities for Winchester. Officers were also meeting, along with representatives of Winchester Business Improvement District. The briefing flyer would be re-circulated to Members shortly.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 16 November 2016, be approved and adopted.

4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Robert Hutchison addressed the Forum in respect of the Walking Strategy and Robert Hutchison and Chris Higgins both addressed the Forum in respect of the Winchester Station Car Parks. A summary of their representations are outlined below.

Mr Higgins stated that he was seeking the support of the Town Forum regarding the recently constructed Station Car Park which he considered to be an eyesore and ill considered with no pedestrian footway provision resulting in an unsafe and dangerous development. Mr Higgins suggested that this was an act of public vandalism by Network Rail and South West Trains, creating damage to the Town beyond imagination. He made reference to a public consultation process which should have been followed and asked the Council to persuade Network Rail to cooperate on this matter with the installation of a wider footpath and cycle lane. In response, it was noted that the official opening of this development was due to take place on 26 January by Steve Brine MP had been cancelled. However, a public demonstration would ensue at the car park to press for changes in the law and to seek accountability from Network Rail.

Mr Hutchison stated that he fully endorsed the comments made by Mr Higgins. He made reference to the Walking Strategy, which had been given priority status by the Council and he considered had been overlooked by South West Trains, who appeared to have no interest in Health and Environmental matters with the lack of decent pedestrian access. In conclusion he stated that the demonstration arranged for 26 January would not just affect the residents of St Paul but was a Town wide issue and would commence at 12.50pm at the Train Station.

RESOLVED:

That the comments expressed by during public participation be noted.

5. **PAVILION PROJECT UPDATE**
(Oral Report)

The Forum made reference to the report and presentation regarding the replacement of the cricket pavilion at North Walls, as considered previously at its meeting in September 2016. It had been reported that the facility was in a poor state of repair and had failed to meet accessibility requirements and English Cricket Board guidance. The Winchester Town Account had a ring-fenced sum of £300k for the replacement of the pavilion which had been delayed whilst the location of the new leisure centre was determined.

Following proposals for a bespoke pavilion promoted by local residents and cricket enthusiasts, AR Design Studio (Winchester) presented a design concept to Forum Members, with estimated costs of £600k. The Forum agreed to delay the replacement project to allow the Pavilion Project (as the Group was now known) to raise the additional funding.

Members noted that a report providing an update on all aspects of the scheme and seeking the views of the Forum on the progress of the replacement project would be considered at the next meeting of the Town Forum. This would enable the Pavilion Project Team adequate time to submit bids and receive a response from funding bodies, trusts and potential corporate sponsors.

The Forum acknowledged the work carried out by the Pavilion Project Team to date. This had included the setting up of a three-stranded fundraising campaign; further work on costings and construction to 'value engineer' the project (now estimated at a figure closer to £500k); setting up a website and associated campaign of PR activity, and continued dialogue with Council officers.

In response to questions, the Assistant Director (Economy and Communities) informed the Forum that the Council were supporting the project as much as possible and had published details of the project on the Council's website, but would not be leading the project fundraising on behalf of the Pavilion Project Team. Additional Council support to further promote the scheme via increased communication methods would be investigated by officers.

RESOLVED:

That the Pavilion Project update be noted and full report be provided to the next meeting of the Town Forum.

6. **FEEDBACK ON THE COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH PROGRAMME**
(Oral Report)

The Forum were informed that a number of volunteers had come forward and were in the process of being trained. Following agreement with the Police Support Team, further training would be organised over the next couple of months which would link into a launch event. The position of Co-ordinator had become vacant, which was a key role in leading the area teams.

The Chairman encouraged Forum Members to look at their network of contacts in order to help fill this position. The Chairman advised that she would circulate the Police Support Team contact details for Forum Members to make direct contact with them on this matter.

RESOLVED

That the Community Speedwatch Update be noted.

7. **NEW PLAY AREA INITIATIVE**
(Oral Report)

The Forum received a presentation by the Head of Landscapes and Open Spaces which provided an update on the new play area principles and initiatives following an update of the Play Area Strategy last year to secure long term funding and to decide on the longer term principles moving forward.

The presentation referred to the core actions, usage monitoring, improvements completed to date, including works at St Matthews Field and Dean Park and changes to how adaptations are made to play areas within Abbots Walk and the use of new play areas initiatives with the focus on natural play for all ages and meadow trails with sculptures.

The Head of Landscapes and Open Spaces drew Members attention to promotional activities such as the creation and introduction of a play themed mascot named 'Wonky' to help promote play areas and encourage bike usage.

The launch of the play area at Abbots Walk would take place on 28 March 2017 with pupils of St Bede School and guest, Olympian Iwan Thomas, participating in a fitness game which would be offered across other primary schools in the Town Centre to encourage children of all ages to use the play areas and participate in fitness by exploring the play areas with active games involving searching for 'Wonky and his friends'. It was hoped that this would generate new opportunities for funding by expanding the project and creating a brand from 'Wonky' with themed merchandise.

In conclusion, the Forum were fully supportive of the project and welcomed the imaginative opportunities for older children and the new style of play area initiative. Members expressed a wish that the brand connect with other

organisations such as the Wildlife Trust in Winnall Moors and welcomed the suggestion of a tour of the new play area for Members of the Town Forum at a later date.

RESOLVED:

That the Landscape and Open Spaces Team be congratulated on their work carried out at the play areas, particularly in relation to the new play area initiative at Abbots Walk.

8. **PROGRESS OF THE CENTRAL WINCHESTER REGENERATION SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT COMMISSION**

(Report WTF249 refers)

The Forum gave consideration to the report which provided an update on the progress to develop a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for the Central Winchester Regeneration area, which included the commissioning of a design team to help formulate the SPD and to undertake the associated engagement.

It was announced that following a competitive procurement process the Council had appointed JTP, an award winning 'placemaking' practice of architects and masterplanners to lead the creation of an SPD and to advise on the steps of the public engagement programme. The Town Forum had previously nominated Councillors Scott and Tait to work with consultants, the Central Winchester Regeneration IPG (CWRIPG) and officers on the consultation side of the commission, at the invitation of the Chairman of the CWRIPG.

The Forum noted that the public launch would be taking place on 10 February 2017 and that JTP would be providing an update Members at the next meeting of the Town Forum on 8 March 2017.

In response to questions, the Corporate Director (Service Delivery) advised that the current focus would be the preparation of the SPD and that it was premature to indicate any clear completion timescale at this stage but officers were anticipating work to be phased with full delivery expected to be in the region of five years at present.

The Forum noted that part of the engagement process put forward by JTP included outreach by roadshows to target hard to reach areas. Members considered that roadshows should be included areas of the Town such as Stanmore, Winnall and Weeke, to reach out to a broad cross section of the public.

RESOLVED:

1. That, the inclusion of Stanmore, Winnall and Weeke in the roadshow programme, as set out above, be noted by the Deputy Leader; and

2. That, subject to the comment raised above, the report be received and noted.

9. **PROPOSED GRANT ALLOCATIONS FOR 2017/18**
(Report CAB2888 refers)

The Forum gave consideration to the proposed grant allocations report for 2017/18. It was noted that the Council had provided funds to support the work of voluntary and community organisations in the Winchester District, recognising the wide and valued range of services provided across the outcomes of the Winchester District. The proposed total budget for grant programmes in 2017/18 was £754,330 which was a slight increase on the previous year 2016/17 with the bulk of the money given in Core Funding, responsible for making contributions towards the overheads of organisations providing important services in the Winchester District.

Councillor Hiscock declared a personal and prejudicial interest in relation to the Trinity Centre as the Director of an associated organisation. He left the room during the consideration of this item, taking no part in the discussion or vote thereon.

Councillor Green declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in relation to The Carroll Centre, in his role as the Council's nominated representative. He left the room during the consideration of this item, taking no part in the discussion or vote thereon.

Councillor Elks declared a personal and prejudicial interest as trustee of The Carroll Centre. She left the room during the consideration of this item, taking no part in the discussion or vote thereon.

Councillor Ashton declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of the Winchester Theatre Trust due to his wife's role as Chairman of the Trust. He left the room during the consideration of this item, taking no part in the discussion or vote thereon.

Councillor Mather declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest as an advisory committee member of the Trinity Centre and in relation to several other organisations listed where periodic grants had been given during 2016/17 in her role as a County Councillor. She spoke and voted thereon.

Councillor Learney declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest as Member of WinACC and spoke and voted thereon.

Councillor Tod declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in relation to the Trinity Centre (as he was a regular donor), Winchester Churches Nightshelter (as a volunteer), Hyde 900 (as a member) and in relation to several other organisations listed where periodic grants had been given during 2016/17 in his role as a County Councillor. He spoke and voted thereon.

Councillor Weir declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest as trustee of WinACC and spoke and voted thereon.

The Assistant Director (Economy and Communities) outlined the proposed grant funding allocations for 2017/18, as set out in Appendix 1 of the Report and thanked Members of the Winchester Town Forum (Town Account Grants) Informal Group for their time in thoroughly considering the grant applications submitted.

The Assistant Director (Economy and Communities) drew Members' attention to a significant change for 2017/18 in relation to the proposed introduction of Integr8 Community as a core funded organisation. Integr8 had proposed to bring commercial income to the King Alfred Youth and Activity Centre (KAYAC), whilst retaining the community orientation through lettings to charities, youth activities and classes. As a result, a three year phased funding arrangement was proposed, as set out in paragraphs 2.2 and 8.6 of the Report.

The Committee referred to the allocations made under the Town Forum Small Grants during 2016/17, which had been agreed under delegated powers by the Assistant Director (Economy and Communities), in consultation with the Winchester Town Forum (Town Account Grants) Informal Group, as set out in Appendix 2 of the Report.

In conclusion, the Committee thanked the Winchester Town Forum (Town Account Grants) Informal Group, particularly its Chairman, Councillor Scott and Melissa Fletcher, Funding and Development Officer, for their hard work and dedication in the grant allocation process.

RESOLVED:

That it be recommended to Cabinet:

- 1. That, as part of the approval of the total City Council Grants, the proposed grant allocations totalling £80,000 and shown in Appendix 1 of the Report be made to organisations in the Town area (funded by a release from the Winchester Town precept), and subject to the Council's approval of the Budget and Council Tax for 2017/18, be endorsed;**
- 2. That the allocations made for the Town Forum Small Grants Programme for 2016/17 under the delegated authority of**

the Assistant Director (Economy and Communities) as shown in Appendix 2 of the Report, be noted; and

3. That the Membership of Winchester Town Forum (Town Account Grants) Informal Group be amended for 2017/18 (preferably to five members), in order to facilitate efficient decision-making.

10. **WINCHESTER TOWN ACCOUNT BUDGET 2017/18**
(Report WTF250 refers)

The Forum gave consideration to the Winchester Town Account Budget for 2017/18 which summarised the current financial projections for the Town Account for the period 2016/17 to 2021/22, together with financial sensitivities.

Members' attention was drawn to the updated financial projections for the financial strategy period, together with the key assumptions and sensitivity analysis, as set out in Appendix 1 of the Report, which formed the final part of the budget consultation process and gave consideration to the budget options for the Play Area Refurbishment Plan, the Cycle Café, St Maurice's Covert and the Community Infrastructure Levy Improvement Fund.

Following consideration of Appendix 2, outlining the forecast based on the current Precept and Appendix 3, which set out the forecast based on an increase in Precept of 3%, for 2017/18, Members referred to the effect of increasing the town area precept for 2017/18, the work carried out by the Winchester Town (Account Informal) Group and the indicative precept requirements of funding the play area refurbishment to 2024/25.

Members made reference to the capital expenditure plans and the capital programme which highlighted the budgets currently funded by the town earmarked reserve, particularly in relation to the Chesil Theatre Grant where the budget had been set aside but there had been no expenditure. In response, the Chairman agreed to approach the Chesil Theatre to seek an update on their current position.

Similarly, the Committee noted that £11,000 had been set aside within the budget for the provision of Christmas Lights in the Town Centre. However, it was reported that following a recent meeting with the Winchester Business Improvement District (BID), a letter regarding funding for Christmas Lights was in the process of being submitted by the BID, therefore it was considered that funding should remain in the budget, pending receipt of correspondence, to continue this joint project between BID and the Council.

During debate, the Committee noted that since the draft budget had been published there had been widespread support for the Christmas Lights and for the St Maurice's Covert Enhancement Scheme. Whilst it was recognised that not all aspects of the scheme for St Maurice's Covert were affordable at this

time, Members were keen to see this important scheme progress and hoped to encourage the key stakeholders to 'buy into' the scheme moving forward.

To contribute to the success of the scheme an amendment to the draft budget was proposed to allocate an increase to the one off budget for St Maurice's Covert of £10,000, increasing this overall from £50,000 to £60,000. The Committee also requested the same one off increase in matched funding be supported from Cabinet.

The Committee noted that Parish Council precepts for Council Tax had continued to increase regularly on an annual basis, whereas the Town had previously refrained from increasing its precept for Council Tax over many years but recognised that this was not sustainable if it wished to continue to deliver vital services to its residents.

At the conclusion of the debate, it was agreed to recommend to Cabinet that the Town area precept for Council Tax for 2017/18 be increased by 3%.

RESOLVED:

That it be recommended to Cabinet:

- 1. That the draft budget for 2017/18 be amended to increase the one off budget for St Maurice's Covert from £50,000 to £60,000 and, subject to this amendment, the indicative projections for the strategy period be noted;**
- 2. That an increase in Council Tax for the Town area precept of 3% to £65.21 in 2017/18 (an increase of £1.90 per Band D equivalent) be agreed;**
- 3. That the amended budget for the Winchester Town Forum area, as set out in Appendix 1 of Report WTF250 be approved; and**
- 4. That consideration be given to general fund matched funding increase for the works at St Maurice's Covert from £50,000 to £60,000, as set out above.**

11. BAR END FORUM UPDATE AND PROGRESS ON THE LEISURE CENTRE PROJECT

(Oral Report)

The Chairman drew to the attention of the Forum a matter which she considered to be an issue at the last meeting of the Bar End Forum held on 9 January 2017 with regard to lack of engagement with the Winchester Town area as a whole and necessary wider circulation in a process which she

considered would impact the wider Town Centre community and not just the residents in the immediate vicinity of Bar End.

It was noted that the terms of reference for the Bar End Forum were broad and looked at the development of the whole area of Bar End (including sites such as the Serco Depot site and King George V playing fields, among others) and involved various stakeholders and interested parties, especially those within a geographical area, such as the local Ward Members and representatives of St Giles Hill and Highcliffe Residents' Associations, Chilcomb Lane allotment holders etc. Although it was recognised the Bar End Forum included looking at the design framework for the Leisure Centre, this was not its sole purpose as the Leisure Centre Project was led by the Leader, the relevant Portfolio Holder and Cabinet colleagues.

The sensitivities of access were particularly pertinent for local residents in this area but the Forum recognised there was a need to achieve early stakeholder involvement with the local residents as well as adequate engagement with the views of the wider Town area taken into account.

In conclusion the Chairman advised that she would commit to take this matter forward with the relevant Portfolio Holder to ensure that residents of the wider Town area were engaged in all aspects of the Leisure Centre Project going forward.

RESOLVED:

That the update be received and noted.

12. **UPDATE ON THE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY AND TOWN IMPROVEMENT FUND – REPORT OF THE WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM (ACCOUNTS) INFORMAL GROUP**
(Report WTF251 refers)

The Forum gave consideration to the report which provided an update on the neighbourhood portion of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and set out the spending protocol following the consideration of the report at the last meeting of the Town Forum held on 16 November 2016, whereby the Forum agreed the principles for spending the CIL. The Report and Appendices 1 to 3 outlined the detailed proposals for allocating CIL income and included the mechanism for identifying, assessing and recommending schemes for funding.

Reference was made to the proposals which could be submitted at any time between February and September annually and the selection of schemes for CIL funding which would be aligned with the annual budget setting process. It was noted that once a proposed programme had been drawn up by the Town Forum (Accounts) Informal Group and officers, it would be referred to the Town Forum and Cabinet for final agreement. The programme would include

schemes for funding in the forthcoming financial year along with other schemes which may benefit from future CIL funding in years two and three.

In response to questions, the Corporate Director (Service Delivery) confirmed that this would be a rolling programme of projects where partners can work with the Council. Members suggested that the production of a map to identify the geographical areas of the Town where proposals have come forward would be a helpful guide in the allocation process.

During debate, several Members expressed concern that the scheme could become 'oversubscribed' as currently experienced in other areas (e.g Housing Estate Improvement Programme) and that a sensitive and cautious approach needed to be adopted when assessing projects for the programme.

RESOLVED:

1. That the CIL Officer produce and maintain a location map of where CIL notices are issued within the Town area moving forward; and
2. That the protocol for spending CIL funds allocated to the Forum, as set out in the report and in Appendices 1 to 3, be agreed.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 9.05pm

Chairman