

**WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM****21 March 2013**Attendance:Councillors:

Collin (Chairman) (P)

E Berry (P)

J Berry (P)

Green (P)

Hiscock (P)

Hutchison (P)

Mather (P)

Maynard (P)

Nelmes (P)

Pearce (P)

Pines (P)

Prowse (P)

Sanders (P)

Scott (P)

Tait (P)

Tod (P)

Weir (P)

Witt (P)

Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillor Wood

Others in attendance who did not address the meeting:

Councillor Laming

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**1. MINUTES**

## RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 23 January 2013, be approved and adopted.

**2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

As Council Leader, Councillor Wood announced that the Silver Hill Compulsory Purchase Order had been confirmed. He welcomed this news and hoped that the development could progress as soon as possible.

Councillor Wood also commented that he looked forward to receiving the views of the Forum on the Stanmore Planning Framework in due course. He emphasised that the Council had recently acquired the New Queens Head site, but had not made any definite decisions as to the site's future use. However, he believed it was important that a decision on this was taken as soon as possible to prevent the site remaining vacant for any length of time.

Mr T Sampson addressed the Forum and announced that a new community radio station would be launched for Winchester on a 20 day trial basis. This would include a Youth Participation Scheme. Further details of both the scheme and the youth project were available via the website:

<http://blog.ventaradio.co.uk/>

3. **WARM UP WINNALL (PRESENTATION FROM WINACC)**

(Oral Report)

Councillor J Berry declared a personal (but not prejudicial) interest in respect of this item as an employee of Winnall Community Association. She remained in the room, spoke and voted.

Mrs C Holloway, Ms T Lewis and Ms S Thomas (WinACC) gave a presentation on the Warm up Winnall initiative, further details of which were available from the WinACC website via the following link:

<http://www.winacc.org.uk/news/2013/02/24/warm-winnall-new-boilers-free-or-reduced-cost>

WinACC were seeking the Forum's view on whether the scheme could be extended across the rest of the Town area and whether any funding could be made available towards the cost of producing publicity material.

The Forum noted that the funding available was from utility companies and could be targeted to address those people in fuel poverty.

In response to questions, the Assistant Director (Environment) advised that he was currently examining how issues surrounding fuel poverty could be addressed, and in particular how the various organisations involved in this area could work together to ensure the help available was linked and did not become disjointed.

Following discussion, the Forum welcome the initiative and also the idea of it being extended across the whole of the Town area, although possibly still targeting areas where fuel poverty was known to be a particular issue. The Chairman suggested that individual Councillors could consult within their own Wards to ascertain any such areas and report back to Officers accordingly.

RESOLVED:

1. That the "Warm up WInnall" initiative be welcomed.
2. That Officers investigate with WinACC the possibility of extending the scheme across all Winchester Town Wards and report back to a future Town Forum meeting, including indicating whether any funding was required.

4. **STANMORE PLANNING FRAMEWORK UPDATE**

(Oral Report)

The Chairman welcomed approximately fifty members of the public who were present at the meeting in order to hear the presentation on the Stanmore Planning Framework.

The Corporate Director (Operations) advised that the presentation marked the start of a public consultation period which would continue for a five week period until 19 April 2013, with various events planned within the community.

The Assistant Director (Economic Prosperity) introduced representatives from Broadway Malyan which had been commissioned to prepare the Framework. The presentation set out the key issues that had been raised by local people, and the proposals to address these issues which could be included in the final Framework document. The detailed plans of proposals and consultation events planned are available from the Stanmore Combined website via the following link:

[www.stanmorecombined.org.uk/stanmore\\_planning\\_framework/](http://www.stanmorecombined.org.uk/stanmore_planning_framework/)

In response to questions, the Assistant Director (Economic Prosperity) advised that in addition to consulting with City and County Councillors for the Ward, a postcard giving details of the consultation programme had been hand delivered to every house within the Stanmore area. The results of the consultation and consequent proposals would be reported back to Cabinet. In addition, the community would be informed via the Stanmore Newsletter and through local Councillors.

The Forum highlighted the need to involve “hard to reach” groups in the consultation, and the Assistant Director (Economic Prosperity) confirmed that she would invite local groups representing the elderly and young people to consider the plans and offer their feedback.

At the invitation of the Chairman, County Councillor Dickens addressed the meeting and confirmed the County Council’s support for the project.

A number of Members commented that there had been a large amount of consultation with Stanmore residents in recent years and welcomed the current opportunity for positive and prompt action to be taken.

**RESOLVED:**

That the content of the presentation and proposed consultation on the Stanmore Planning Framework be noted.

5. **GRITTING WINCHESTER’S PAVEMENTS**  
(Oral Report)

The Forum welcomed to the meeting Peter Eade, Highways Manager for Winchester District at the County Council who gave a presentation on gritting of roads and pavements within Winchester.

In response to questions, Mr Eade confirmed that there was a prioritised inspection route, but ultimately there was a lack of resources available to enable all routes to be cleared on the first day of snowfall. He gave the Stanmore area as one that had been prioritised, due to its sloping nature presenting particular difficulties in icy conditions.

During discussion, a number of Members mentioned incidences of footpaths not being cleared in their Wards and suggested that major walking routes into the Town centre be prioritised (for example, along Stockbridge Road and Andover Road).

Mr Eade advised that the number of grit bins in Hampshire had increased from 700 to 4,500 in recent years and empty bins could be reported to the County Council. He confirmed that the County Council's website included guidance for householders on the legal question of clearing pavements outside their properties.

One Member commented that he did not consider roads in Stanmore had been adequately gritted following the recent snowfalls. Mr Eade asked that he be informed of the details of this outside of the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the presentation be noted.

6. **A WATER VOLE TRAIL TO WINNALL MOORS**  
(Report WTF186 refers)

The Forum welcomed to the meeting Martin de Retuerto, Winnall Moors Project Officer who gave a presentation on the proposed Water Vole Trail which included ideas for its possible design and route from Abbey Gardens to the entrance to Winnall Moors. A link to the presentation can be found here: <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/assets/files/16880/WTF186Presentation.pdf>

During discussions, a number of Members commented that whilst it was important to open up Winnall Moors to as many people as possible, it was also essential to preserve its special nature as a reserve. There were also some concerns expressed about the use of public art to publicise the trail.

One Member highlighted that the County Council were undertaking a Wayfinding Winchester project which might overlap with proposal for the Trail. The Head of Landscape and Open Spaces agreed to investigate this further and ensure that the two projects integrated with each other.

Following discussion, the majority of Forum Members welcomed the proposals as an exciting opportunity for Winnall Moors and Winchester.

RESOLVED:

That the Town Forum notes the proposals in the Report and confirms its support for the Water Vole Trail Project.

7. **WINCHESTER TOWN OPEN SPACE FUND**  
(Report WTF187 refers)

In response to questions, the Head of Landscape and Open Spaces clarified that the funding towards refurbishing the pavilion at North Walls had already been allocated by the Forum at a previous meeting. The Corporate Director (Operations) confirmed that due to the timeframes involved in any decision

regarding the future of River Park Leisure Centre, this wider issue should not impact upon the more immediate requirement to refurbish the pavilion.

With regard to the proposals for refurbishment of the pavilions, the Head of Landscape and Open Spaces advised that work that had been identified was required to address urgent maintenance issues.

The Forum noted that the North Walls skate park project was progressing well and a planning application had now been submitted. Planning permission was required in order to be able to apply for various sources of external funding. A number of Forum Members emphasised the importance of the project both for young people locally, and also as the potential to be a national venue for skateboarding. Following discussion, the Forum agreed that the funding toward this project be increased by diverting £20,000 from the Sport element of the Open Space Fund recommended for the Winchester Canoe Club Slalom Course (Paragraph 2.1 of the Report refers). By maximising the funding provided by the Council to the skate park project, the Forum believed it would increase the chances of success with external funding applications.

**RESOLVED:**

**That it be recommended to Cabinet:**

- 1. That a total funding of £57,000 be agreed, as proposed in the Report (and as previously agreed by the Town Forum) for the refurbishment of North Walls pavilion (£44,000 from Earmarked Reserve and £13,000 from Town Open Space Fund).**
- 2. That a total of £200,000 be allocated for the construction of a replacement Sports Pavilion at King George V (£33,000 from Winchester Town Account Earmarked Reserve along with £167,000 from the Sport element of the Town Open Space Fund).**
- 3. That a further £124,674 be allocated towards North Walls Skate Park (£104,174 from the Play element of Town Open Space Fund, £20,000 from Sport element of Town Open Space Fund).**
- 4. That the Winchester Town Forum reconsider funding the canoe club slalom course improvements at a future date, but that in the mean time, the club should be encouraged to try to raise funds for the scheme from other sources.**
- 5. That, in accordance with Financial Procedure Rule 7.2, Cabinet recommend to Council the approval of a supplementary capital estimate of £625,000, as detailed above, noting that subsequent authority to incur capital expenditure will require a full project report and financial appraisal in accordance with Financial Procedure Rule 6.4.**

8. **WINCHESTER TOWN AND THE LOCAL PLAN PART 2**  
(Oral Report)

The Corporate Director (Operations) advised that the Council had begun preparations for the Local Plan Part 2 and consultation had already started with parish councils across the District. However, he was seeking the Forum's views on how it should best be consulted with on this matter. Past experience had highlighted that the diverse ranges of views naturally held by Town Forum Members created some difficulties in consulting with it as a single entity representing the whole of the Winchester Town area. Therefore, an alternative approach was suggested, such as consulting with Members by Ward.

During discussion, some Members highlighted that some issues were of too great a significance to be dealt with by Ward, for example the Silver Hill development. In these cases, it might be appropriate for a working group to be established which could regularly report back to meetings of the full Town Forum.

A few Members raised the current issue regarding the potential for redevelopment of the area around Winchester Railway Station and proposed that a working group be established to examine this. However, one Member commented that any proposals would be difficult in practice to implement due to the wide range of landowners in the area. Following further discussion, the majority of Forum Members agreed to the proposal to establish a Working Group with six Members and the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport also be invited to attend.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That an Informal Working Group be established to consider the possible redevelopment of the area around Winchester Railway Station with six Members (three Liberal Democrat, two Conservative and one Labour).

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 10.30pm

Chairman