

WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM

18 June 2008

Attendance:

Councillors:

Nelmes (Chairman) (P)

Barratt (P)
Berry (P)
Fall (P)
Hicks (P)
Higgins (P)
Hiscock (P)
Love (P)
Mather (P)
Maynard (P)

Mitchell (P)
Pearce
Pines (P)
Sanders (P)
Stephens
Tait (P)
Thompson (P)
Worrall (P)

Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:

Councillor Beckett (Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economy and Tourism)

1. **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Nelmes be appointed Chairman and Councillor Love Vice Chairman of the Winchester Town Forum for the remainder of the 2008/09 Municipal Year.

2. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held 2 April 2008, be approved and adopted.

3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr Weeks raised a question regarding the Silverhill development. In response, the Leader explained that the Compulsory Order Purchase order could be issued by October 2008 and that this was a process which could result in a Public Enquiry. The Forum also noted that the Council had not received an amended scheme from London and Henley for the site and that, in any case, the submission of alternative schemes did not affect the Compulsory Purchase Orders process.

Ms Ainley spoke as the Community and Business Development Manager with regard to CAB1672 and her comments are as set out below.

4. **HENRY BEAUFORT SCHOOL – COMMUNITY SYNTHETIC TURF PITCH
(LESS EXEMPT APPENDIX)**
(Report [CAB1672](#) refers)

Ms G Ainley, Business Development Manager at Henry Beaufort School, spoke in support of the proposals. In summary, she emphasised that it was a community school which served 35,000 inhabitants and that one of its key objectives was to promote sports. The new facility would be used by a wide range of users, including:

- Three Winchester based football clubs and a local girls football club;
- Local primary schools;
- Training venue for adult community teams;
- Southampton Football Club's "Saintsability" project for disabled players.

Ms Ainley highlighted that the new facility was urgently required, as existing venues in the area were full to capacity.

The funding request had been made to the Town Account's Open Space Fund because, although the school was located in the parish of Littleton and Harestock it was on the boundary with St Barnabas Ward and 20 percent of the school's pupils came from the town as would an anticipated 50 percent of the new facility's users. Ms Ainley also clarified that, in addition to the request from the Town Account's Open Space Fund, the school had also requested funds towards the £600,000 project from SITA, parish councils (of which, Littleton and Harestock had agreed to contribute £10,000 of its own Open Space Fund), the Football Foundation and the school's own budget.

In introducing the Report, the Corporate Director (Operations) explained that the Forum had been asked to consider the request from the Open Space Fund, as if it were acting as a Parish Council, but to make a recommendation to Council as to whether it supported the scheme.

As background, he reminded the Forum that, as a consequence of supporting the Bar End athletics track in 2007, the Town Account's Open Spaces Fund was currently in debit. In agreeing the previous project, the Leader had committed to lend the Town Account's Open Spaces Fund the necessary amount from the Council's General Fund, so that other worthwhile, sports projects in the town would not be detrimentally affected by the commitment to the athletics track. At its meeting on 4 June 2008, Cabinet had agreed that the proposals from Henry Beaufort School fell into this category and agreed that, subject to the support of the Town Forum, the scheme should be recommended to Council for approval.

During debate, it was agreed that, if completed, the proposed facility was likely to affect the recent Planning Policy Statement 17 assessment of gaps in recreation and open space facilities in the town. The Director agreed to re-evaluate this and bring a report to a future meeting if necessary.

Several Councillors raised concerns that the Report had been considered by Cabinet prior to the Forum, but it was noted that, without a significant delay in committing the Council's support for the project, this was an inevitable

consequence of the Committee's scheduled meetings dates and that the previous Forum Chairman had been informed of developments with the scheme. The Leader reiterated that, if during its debate, the Forum identified serious and legitimate concerns regarding the project, he would consider withdrawing Cabinet's approval of the scheme at Council, to be held 25 June 2008.

At the conclusion of debate, the Forum supported the scheme as set out and welcomed the contribution from Littleton and Harestock Parish Council; which they hoped would be mirrored in other affected Parish Councils where funds were available.

RECOMMENDED:

THAT COUNCIL BE ADVISED THAT WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM SUPPORTS THE PROJECT.

5. **2008/09 WORK PROGRAMME AND APPOINTMENTS**
[\(Report WTF114 refers\)](#)

During debate, it was suggested that in the forthcoming year, the Forum should continue with large-scale public meetings, where appropriate, and that it should continue to hold meetings as close to the community as possible. For example, the meeting to discuss the Cathedral's Masterplan could be held in the Cathedral.

The Forum suggested a number of discussion topics, as set out below, and agreed to delegate the details of the final work programme to the Corporate Director (Operations), in consultation with the Chairman, and that this would be circulated to Members for information.

The Corporate Director (Operations) explained that Cabinet was scheduled to receive a report at its 9 July 2008 meeting regarding future funding for the provision of cultural activities at the Tower Arts Centre. As this Report would affect Grants from the Town Account and would take place before the next meeting of the Forum, the Forum agreed to delegate its representation to the Town Account Grants Informal Group.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Corporate Director (Operations), in consultation with the Chairman, set the detailed 2008/09 work programme from the following issues, as set out below (in no particular order), in addition to those issues set out in paragraph 1.8 of the Report:

- Sports facilities (to include play area provision)
- Litter
- Changes to the Neighbourhood Warden Scheme
- Winchester's Carbon Footprint (a possibility for a large-scale public meeting)
- Teenage Issues (to be organised with the Youth Council)
- Presentation from Streetreach to a future Councillors' meeting

- Presentation from Winchester Action Group to a future Councillors' meeting
- Presentation from Emmaus to a future Councillors' meeting
- Waterways – a report from the Drainage Engineer to outline how the Town Account's current budget was being spent in this area and what other works needed to be done.
- Disability Issues
- Presentation from Winchester Allotments to a future Councillors' meeting
- Primary School places (possibly a public meeting to include Education Officers from Hampshire County Council and to take in the results of their recent, related survey. It was likely that this meeting would be held in the new academic year)
- Developments at Royal Hampshire County Hospital

2. That the following appointments be made:

Town Account Informal Group:

Councillors Berry, Mather, Maynard, Nelmes (Chairman) and Pines.

Town Account Grants Informal Group:

Councillors Love, Berry, Barratt, Fall, and Tait.

Twinning Informal Group:

Councillors Barratt, Higgins, Love, Pearce, Pines (Chairman) and Sanders.

6. **SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL – APPOINTMENTS AND MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**
[\(Report WTF116 refers\)](#)

The Forum noted the minutes of the previous Safer Neighbourhood Panel meeting and agreed to change its membership for future meetings, as set out below. Following discussion, the Forum agreed that each Ward should be permanently represented by one Councillor and that other Members would be welcome to attend as observers. However, the Ward Members for St John and All Saints nominated Mr Cassidy and Mr Merrett as their representatives and this was approved by the Forum.

RESOLVED:

1. That the minutes of the previous Safer Neighbourhood Panel meeting be noted.

2. That the following Members be appointed as the Forum's representatives to future meetings of the Safer Neighbourhood Panel:

St Barnabas: Councillor Worrall (deputy Councillor Berry)
 St Bartholomew: Councillor Nelmes
 St John and All Saints: Mr Cassidy and Mr Merrett
 St Lukes: Councillor Fall (deputy Councillor Thompson)
 St Michaels: Councillor Mather (deputy Councillor Sanders)
 St Pauls: Councillor Pearce (deputy Councillor Love)

7. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

RESOLVED:

1. That in all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

2. That the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following items of business because it is likely that, if members of the public were present, there would be disclosure to them of 'exempt information' as defined by Section 100I and Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

<u>Minute Number</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Description of Exempt Information</u>
##	Henry Beaufort School – Community Synthetic Turf Pitch – Exempt Appendix) Information relating to the) financial or business affairs of) any particular person (including) the authority holding that) information). (Para 3 Schedule) 12A refers)

8. **HENRY BEAUFORT SCHOOL – COMMUNITY SYNTHETIC TURF PITCH - EXEMPT APPENDIX**

(Report CAB1672 refers)

The Committee considered an exempt appendix which set out financial details relating to the scheme.

RECOMMENDED:

THAT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE EXEMPT APPENDIX BE NOTED.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 8.40pm

Chairman