

**WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM**

**13 January 2009**

Attendance:

Councillors:

Nelmes (Chairman) (P)

Barratt (P)

Berry (P)

Fall (P)

Hicks (P)

Higgins (P)

Hiscock (P)

Love

Mather (P)

Maynard

Mitchell (P)

Pearce

Pines (P)

Sanders (P)

Stephens

Tait (P)

Thompson (P)

Worrall

Others in attendance who addressed the meeting:

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

Others in attendance who did not address the meeting:

Councillor Allgood (Portfolio Holder for Finance and Efficiency)

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1. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN FOR MEETING**

In the absence of the Vice Chairman (Councillor Love) it was agreed that Councillor Fall be appointed Vice Chairman for the meeting.

2. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 26 November 2008, be approved and adopted.

3. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Chairman informed the meeting that, in the near future, it was proposed to hold a public meeting to discuss current issues concerning the University of Winchester's masterplan. Members would be notified about the date, time and venue as soon as it had been agreed with all parties.

#### 4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr A Weeks referred to the recent planning permission (granted on appeal) for the change of use of the Stanmore Hotel public house to a residential care home. Redevelopment work had already commenced and he expressed his great regret at the loss of a much valued community facility.

Mr Weeks then drew attention to other issues, including the adverse impacts of developing Barton Farm and the number of rough sleepers in the Town, which he estimated at nearer 50 and not the 19 officially recorded. He also regretted the recent decision to impose an Anti Social Behaviour Order on a particular street busker.

The Chairman thanked Mr Weeks for his comments, which were noted.

#### 5. **CITYPRIDE CAMPAIGN** [\(Report WTF127 refers\)](#)

During a detailed discussion, the Head of Environment acknowledged that problems existed with the public conveniences in St Maurice's Covert and that, ideally, the premises would benefit from a refurbishment. Those conveniences were the Council's only 'attended' toilets and that arrangement may need to be reviewed in the future. It was noted that, in total, there were seven conveniences located around the town centre which was a relatively high provision, although there was a need to improve some of the direction signing.

It was queried whether shop premises (particularly take-away food outlets) could make a greater contribution to easing the litter problem, by undertaking regular clearance outside their frontages. In particular, it was recalled that a planning condition to that effect had been specifically imposed on the McDonalds premises. The Head of Environment noted this point and explained that consultations were planned with owners of all town centre premises, possibly in conjunction with the Winchester BID, in order to encourage wider involvement in the CityPride campaign.

In answer to further questions, he explained that litter problems in the surrounding housing estates had not been forgotten, but the initial focus of the campaign would be on the town centre. Offenders serving Community Service Orders could be used for litter picking, but their supervision was not as easy as when undertaking, for example, grounds maintenance works. Finally, he did not accept the point that requiring Neighbourhood Wardens to undertake some enforcement duties would be in conflict with their primary role of supporting the local community e.g. identifying and stopping a persistent fly-tipper would be welcomed by local people.

Members praised the work of Winchester Litter Pickers and other voluntary organisations (such as the Hyde 900 Group) who made a major contribution to the appearance of the Town. It was agreed that the next edition of 'Perspectives' should make reference to their work, which was supported by the Environmental Health Division through the provision of tabards, pick-up sticks, bags etc.

In conclusion, Members welcomed the report and emphasised that the success of the campaign would depend greatly on partnership working and galvanising into action all the various bodies concerned. They also expressed a wish to maintain a close involvement with the campaign and provide support wherever possible.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the proposed actions set out in the above report as part of the CityPride campaign be agreed.

2. That the attention of the Head of Planning Management be drawn to the planning condition which may be imposed on the operators of relevant commercial premises, requiring that they undertake regular litter clearance along the frontages of such premises.

3. That an article appear in the next edition of the Council newspaper 'Perspectives' highlighting the excellent work of Winchester Litter Pickers and other local organisations, in helping to improve the appearance of the Town area.

6. **COMMUNITY GRANTS – REVENUE AWARDS 2009/10**  
[\(Report WTF124 refers\)](#)

Councillor Fall declared a personal interest in respect of her involvement with Stanmore Combined. She also declared a personal and prejudicial interest as a trustee of StreetReach and left the room during the consideration of the item and took no part in the debate or voting thereon.

Councillor Higgins declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of his involvement with the Trinity Centre and left the room during the consideration of the item and took no part in the debate or voting thereon.

Councillor Hiscock declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of his involvement with the Trinity Centre and left the room during the consideration of the item and took no part in the debate or voting thereon.

Councillor Pines declared a personal interest as a building trustee and advisor to the Management Committee of Winnall Community Centre, and a personal and prejudicial as a trustee of the Winnall Rock School.

He left the room for the consideration of both items and took no part in the debate or voting thereon.

Councillor Tait declared a personal interest in respect of his involvement with Relate, the Trinity Centre and the Carroll Youth Centre. He remained in the meeting and participated accordingly.

Councillor Thompson declared a personal interest in respect of her involvement with Stanmore Combined. She remained in the meeting and participated accordingly.

The Forum considered the above report and thanked the Partnership and External Funding Officer (Ms B Heller) for her hard work in producing the proposals set out therein. It was noted that, in Appendix 1 of the report, the word 'Total' should be deleted in the title of the penultimate column.

**RESOLVED:**

**That Cabinet be recommended to approve the following:**

**1 That the annual grant budget be increased by an additional £16,758 to provide a total annual grant budget of £41,758, requiring a 2.2% (+£1.21 Band D equivalent) increase in tax in 2009/10.**

**2 That, subject to Cabinet and Council approval of the overall grants budget, the amount to be awarded to each of the applicants for a revenue grant from the Winchester Town Account totalling £25,098 should be as follows:**

- (i) Carroll Youth Centre - £500**
- (ii) Deaf Plus - £250**
- (iii) Hat Fair - £3,468**
- (iv) Homestart Winchester and Districts - £500**
- (v) Nightshelter – Winchester Churches - £400**
- (vi) Relate Winchester - £550**
- (vii) Stanmore Combined - £550**
- (viii) The Olive Branch - £125**
- (ix) The Trinity Centre - £3,850**
- (x) Winchester & District Mencap - £1,000**

- (xi) **Winchester & District Young Carers Project - £200**
- (xii) **Winchester CAB - £9,980**
- (xiii) **Winchester Detached Youth Work Project - £1,500**
- (xiv) **Winchester Festival - £200**
- (xv) **Winchester Live at Home Scheme - £650**
- (xvi) **Winchester Mayfest - £100**
- (xvii) **Winchester Youth Counselling - £275**
- (xviii) **Winnall Community Association - £500**
- (xix) **Winnall Rock School - £500**

7. **COMMUNITY GRANTS – CAPITAL AWARDS 2009/10**  
[\(Report WTF125 refers\)](#)

The Chairman (Councillor Nelmes) declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of her involvement with the Winchester Dramatic Society (Chesil Theatre). She left the room during the consideration of the item and took no part in the debate or voting thereon. (Cllr Fall assumed the Chair for this item).

Councillor Mitchell declared a personal interest in respect of his involvement with the Weeke Community Centre. He remained in the meeting and participated accordingly.

Councillor Saunders declared a personal and prejudicial interest in respect of his involvement with the Lido Sports Association. He left the room during the consideration of the item and took no part in the debate or voting thereon.

A Member queried why Weeke Community Association had not been recommended for a grant. The Head of Partnerships and Communications explained that, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, the Association had yet to spend the Phase 1 grant of £7,000 awarded in 2006/07 because work had been delayed. Therefore, there was no justification to make a further grant until those earlier funds had been spent and the Phase 1 work completed.

The Forum again thanked the Partnership and External Funding Officer (Ms B Heller) for her hard work in producing the above report.

RESOLVED:

**That Cabinet be recommended to approve the following:**

**1. That, subject to Cabinet and Council approval of the 2009/10 budget provision, the following decisions on Capital Grants be approved from the Town Account:**

- i) Winchester Dramatic Society (Chesil Theatre)- £10,000**
- ii) Winchester Lido Sports Association - £2,600**

2. That further consideration be given to grant aiding the Winchester Dramatic Society (Chesil Theatre) in the financial years 2010/2011 and 2011/2012.

3. That, further to 2 above, it be agreed that to assist Members understanding, a visit to the Chesil Theatre by the Forum be arranged for the spring of 2009.

**8. WINCHESTER TOWN ACCOUNT BUDGET 2009/10  
(Report WTF126 refers)**

Councillor Beckett addressed the meeting and reminded Members that, at Council on 7 January 2009, he reported that the Chief Executive had exercised his delegated powers and awarded a grant of £20,000 to the King Alfred's Youth Activity Centre (KAYAC). This had followed discussions with Hampshire Youth Options, who were now managing the Centre and who had an excellent record in supporting similar facilities in the county. Councillor Beckett requested that the Town Forum consider meeting 25% of that cost by making a one-off grant of £5,000.

Councillor Beckett then referred to the £200,000 grant proposed for the Theatre Royal and requested the Forum to re-consider the decision made at its last meeting, not to meet 10% of that grant (£20,000).

With regard to KAYAC it was noted that, if agreed, the impact could be expressed as 35p per Town household at Band D equivalent. A Member recalled that a sum of £2,500 was awarded to KAYAC in the recent past, but had never been paid; he asked where that sum now appeared in the accounts. The Head of Finance agreed to investigate how that amount had been shown within the accounts, but suggested that it be treated as being held in the reserves for the time being. This was agreed, as was the request for the one-off grant, as the Forum regarded the re-establishment of KAYAC (under the control of

Hampshire Youth Options) as a positive and important development which was to be welcomed.

With regard to the Theatre Royal, the meeting was reminded that any loss of grant from the City Council would have an adverse impact on the Theatre, not least because it would also affect the 2:1 ratio of City Council/County Council grant funding, meaning that the County would contribute £10,000 less if the City reduced its funding by £20,000.

The Head of Finance explained that to agree to the Theatre Royal proposal would take the required increase in the Town charge to 4.2%, and to then add the KAYAC grant would make it 4.8%.

During discussion, some concern was expressed that Town residents were being asked, in effect, to pay twice to subsidise the Theatre Royal. In addition, usage figures showed that two thirds of audiences were not from the Town area, which clearly indicated that it should be regarded as a District facility and funded accordingly. However, the majority view was that, having regard to the importance of the Theatre Royal to both the Town and the District, it was appropriate for the Town account to support the Theatre to the extent suggested.

RESOLVED:

**That Cabinet be informed as follows:-**

- 1. That the Forum agrees to meet 25% of the cost of the funding authorised by the Chief Executive for the King Alfred's Youth Activity Centre (KAYAC) by making a one-off grant of £5,000.**
- 2. That the Forum agrees to support Cabinet's proposal for the assignment of 10% of the grant to the Theatre Royal to the Town Account (£20,000).**
- 3. That, taking into account the necessary amendments further to 1 and 2 above, Cabinet should recommend to Council to approve the Town Account Budget and that the Town Account Precept be increased by 4.8% for 2009/10.**
4. That the revised estimates for the Town Account 2008/09 be noted.
5. That the detailed budget for 2009/10 and the indicative projections for the strategy period be noted.

9. **SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME AND FORWARD PLAN**  
[\(Report PS 345 refers\)](#)

RESOLVED:

That the Report be noted.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 8.50pm

Chairman