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WINCHESTER TOWN FORUM

Thursday, 28 January 2021

Attendance:

Councillors

Becker (Chairperson)

Murphy
Craske
Ferguson
Green
Hiscock
Hutchison

Learney
Mather
Scott
Thompson
Tod
Weir

[Full video and audio](#)

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for the meeting were noted as above.

2. **DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS**

Councillors Hiscock and Tod each declared a non-pecuniary interest concerning agenda items that may be related to their role as a County Councillor.

3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON THE 24 NOVEMBER 2020**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 24 November 2020 be approved and adopted.

4. **CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairperson clarified that a statement made at a recent full council meeting may have indicated that the Town Forum was an unelected body. She wished to record that all members of the forum were elected councillors.

5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Two members of the public addressed the forum regarding the report "North Walls and King George V (KGV) Sports Pavilions Update Report", ref WTF295 and their comments are summarised under the agenda item below.

6. **PRESENTATION - LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION ON STRATEGIC ISSUES AND OPTIONS**

The Strategic Planning Manager provided the forum with a presentation regarding the “Strategic Issues and Priorities Consultation” which had been circulated to members before the meeting and was available on the council's website. The presentation described key relevant issues such as; the new local plan website; the local plan process and gave some detail of the consultation including engagement plans and the “call for sites” exercise.

Members asked several questions and comments were raised which were responded to by officers accordingly. Finally, it was confirmed that the deadline for the response to the consultation was the 12th April 2021 and members of the forum were encouraged to both take part and to encourage others to also do so.

7. **VISION FOR WINCHESTER 2030**

Report ref WTF293

Councillor Porter, Cabinet Member for Built Environment and Wellbeing introduced the report which asked the forum to consider Handbook 3 of the Vision and recommended that the suite of documents (Handbooks, 1, 2 and 3) be adopted as the new Vision for Winchester for the next ten years.

Members welcomed the report and the wider Vision work and looked forward to seeing the next steps taken, including how the Vision could be used within the development of the local plan. Several questions and comments were raised which were responded to by officers accordingly.

RESOLVED:

That the Winchester Town Forum adopts the suite of documents (Handbook, 1, 2 and 3) as the ‘Vision for Winchester’

8. **NORTH WALLS AND KING GEORGE V SPORTS PAVILIONS UPDATE REPORT**

Report ref WTF295

Mr Higgs addressed the forum on behalf of Winchester City Flyers, an all-women’s football club based at King George V (KGV) playing fields and also on behalf of the Hampshire Girls Youth Football League (HGYFL). Mr Higgs made several points; he was pleased to see that the issue of a replacement Pavilion at KGV had been included in the report and he was encouraged by the initial plans provided. He believed that the growth in women’s football would continue and he asked if an indicative timetable for delivery of a new pavilion could be provided.

Mr Caldwell, a Trustee of The Pavilion Project addressed the forum. He advised that the Pavilion Project welcomed the report and the opportunity that the report provided to re-examine the construction costs to enable the project to be

delivered within budget. Mr Caldwell welcomed the establishment of a project board as described in the report. Finally, he drew to the forum's attention, what he believed was a miscalculation in the report in paragraph 12.2 regarding the size of the pavilion "footprint" and associated costings.

The Chairperson thanked Mr Higgs and Mr Caldwell for their contributions.

Mr Botham, Strategic Director Services introduced the report and gave the forum a resume of the key stages of the project which included the report to the January 2020 meeting of the Town Forum, ref WTF 278 and the work undertaken as a result. Mr Botham set out the current position as below:

North Walls Pavilion - The report updated the forum on the progress of the returned tender evaluation and that the lowest return exceeded the approved budget by £150,000. It updated on the "value engineering" work undertaken by the appointed external architect and the Council's Estates Team. Finally, the report set out options for the delivery of a new pavilion, including amending existing designs or considering a full redesign of the proposals.

King George V Pavilion - The report identified the work undertaken by officers and consultants, it outlined the scope of the proposed works and detailed the estimated cost of £1.4m. It also identified the next steps to progress to the submission of a planning application for the demolition of two pavilions and the formation of a single, larger pavilion and made recommendations for funding the project.

Mr Todd, Corporate Property Surveyor responded to the points raised by Mr Caldwell regarding paragraph 12.2 of the report.

Councillor Learney, Cabinet Member for Housing and Asset Management addressed the forum and following this, members debated the issues at length and raised several questions and comments which were responded to by officers accordingly. Members indicated general support for the report. The Chairperson put the following recommendations to the forum which were agreed.

RECOMMENDED (TO CABINET):

That Cabinet gives authority to incur expenditure of pre-construction costs of up to £30,000 in accordance with Financial Procedure Rule 7.4, financed by the Open Space monies in recommendation 6 and that this work proceeds at financial risk to the Town Forum.

RESOLVED:

1. That progress with the procurement of the pavilion at North Walls be noted and the proposals to amend the

design/specification for the pavilion be supported, provided that a total project cost of £800,000 was not exceeded.

2. That the commitment to the delivery of replacement facilities for cricket and other community use at North Walls be reaffirmed and that the £595,000 funding approved in January 2020 remained available to support this commitment.
3. That, if required, the Corporate Head of Asset Management be authorised to prepare and submit a revised planning application to the city council for the construction of the new pavilion at North Walls.
4. That a new project board to manage this process be established, chaired by the Cabinet Member for Housing and Asset Management, supported by the Strategic Director – Services and with a representative of the Pavilion Project to be invited to join the Board.
5. That the proposals for the new pavilion at King George Playing Fields, Highcliffe (KGV) be supported.
6. That the allocation of £228,000 Sports Open Space Funding to the new pavilion at KGV be supported.
7. That it be agreed, in principle, to support the proposal to allocate £250,000 of Town Forum Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds for the KGV project.
8. That a formal application for “district” CIL amounting to £450,000 to support the KGV project be made for Cabinet consideration.
9. That the application for grant funding to the Hampshire Football Association and other bodies to support the KGV project be supported.
10. That the Corporate Head of Asset Management be authorised to prepare and submit a planning application to the city council for the construction of the new pavilion at KGV.
11. That the Corporate Head of Asset Management be authorised to seek quotations in accordance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and Councils Contract Procedure Rules, for professional services associated with the preparation and submission of a planning application, to KGV Pavilion, professional services include: Architect; Ecology report; Landscape Architect; Transport Statement; and Arboricultural report.

12. That a Final Business Case report for the KGV pavilion is brought to Town Forum to agree whether to proceed with the scheme and request competitive tenders from contractors.

9. **WINCHESTER TOWN ACCOUNT BUDGET FOR 2021/22**

Report ref WTF292

The Finance Manager (Strategic Finance) introduced the report which updated Members regarding the current financial projections for the Town Account for the period 2020/21 to 2026/27. The Finance Manager (Strategic Finance) advised that the Town Accounts Informal Group had met three times as part of this process and that the conclusions of those meetings were contained within the report. Member's attention was drawn to the recommendations within the report and paragraphs 11.8 through to 11.14 which gave an overview of the forum's budget. Finally, members were informed that a further report regarding grant allocations would be brought to a future meeting of the forum.

The forum asked questions and raised comments which were addressed by officers accordingly. The forum agreed to the following for the reasons set out above and outlined in the report.

RESOLVED:

That the Town Forum;

1. Recommends that the Council Tax precept for the Town area be increased by 3% for 2021/22;
2. Recommends to Cabinet the budget for the Town area for 2021/22 be set in accordance with Appendix A of the report.
3. Approves an initial £10,000 budget, funded from the Town Community Infrastructure Levy, towards the Highcliffe Community Forum for Action to commence stage one of creating a living street environment. Also, to commit a further £26,412 from CIL, subject to a successful feasibility and identifying funding to complete the project;

Councillor Mather wished to record that she abstained on the first resolution above.

10. **INFORMAL GROUP - VERBAL UPDATE**

Councillor Hutchison - High Street Informal Group.

Updated the forum regarding the latest work undertaken at St Maurices Covert and that a future meeting of the High Street Informal Group would be discussing the High Street lighting.

The Chairperson advised of the following changes to informal groups:

- Councillor Hutchison to leave the KGV Informal Group
- Councillor Hutchison to join the North Walls Informal Group

11. **WORK PROGRAMME**

RESOLVED:

- i. That the March meeting receive a verbal update regarding the Pavilions project and wider KGV consultation work.
- ii. The current version of the work plan was noted

The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and concluded at 8.10 pm

Chairperson