

PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE SITE – UPDATE ON PROGRESS

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report updates Members on progress to secure the return of this site from the Town Council.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Members will recall that a joint Member level meeting with the Town Council took place in August. Following that meeting, the Town Council advised that it would be in a position to respond formally after the meeting of the full Town Council scheduled for 7th October.

3 CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 Following the full Town Council meeting, the District Council have received a letter from the Town Council advising that it has now agreed to relinquish its lease on the site with immediate effect.
- 3.2 As a result, Officers are now taking up with the Town Council the practical issues of transfer. Officers are also making contact with the National Trust, so that the potential to utilise the Environmental Centre site as a new gateway into Rayleigh Mount from the Windmill can be progressed and detailed up.
- 3.3 The Town Council has requested that it be represented in any meetings which relate to the future of the Windmill and the National Trust's requirements for the Environmental Centre site and surrounding area. In a spirit of partnership, Officers therefore intend to invite the Clerk to the Town Council to any meetings with the National Trust on the 'Gateway' project and its environs.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The opportunity now exists to bring the Environmental Centre site into a project which, if successful, will link the Windmill with Rayleigh Mount.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There is money in the capital programme in relation to the Windmill Project. Any further funding required in connection with 'the Gateway'

project will need to be identified as the project is progressed and will need to be considered within the overall budgetary process.

6 RECOMMENDATION

6.1 That the Committee note that the issue relating to the transfer of the proposed Environmental Centre site back to the District Council is now resolved.

Paul Warren
Chief Executive

Background Papers:

Rayleigh Town Council letter dated 9th October 2002

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